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STUDENTS COOK UP A STORM!

ABOVE: The competitors with chef Andrew Huddart and Cowbridge Rotary president Mike Macphail. (SEE THE FULL REPORT ON PAGE 3)

'Don't blame ambulance staff for the delays – *we need more hospital beds*'

A concerned mum from Ystradowen has told The GEM of her despair when an ambulance took hours to pick up her seriously ill son, who then had to wait in the vehicle for a lengthy time while a hospital bed was found, *writes TIM CHAPMAN*.

Wendy McGhan explained that the drama took place in the early hours of the morning of Sunday, December 28.

"My 16-year-old son has a serious condition and at around 3.45am I got in touch with Prime Care and NHS Direct.

"Prime Care said it would get back with advice from doctors. NHS Direct advised me to call an ambulance, which I did.

"In total, I rang the ambulance service three times and was told help was on its way, but they didn't know how long it would be.

"It took until 8am for the ambulance to arrive."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

Village opposes plan to build 64 new houses

COLWINSTON residents are angry at plans to build homes in a field on the edge of the village – a field which they insist regularly floods.

The plan will be considered at a Vale Council planning committee meeting tonight (Thursday).

(See page 7 for a full report).

Cardiff free speech vigil

WHILE an estimated two million people were taking to the streets of Paris on Sunday, a 'Je suis Charlie' a mass vigil was taking place on the steps of the Senedd in the Welsh capital.

It was led by the First Minister, Carwyn Jones AM.

The purpose was to remember the 12 'Charlie Hebdo' magazine staff and four hostages at a Jewish supermarket, who were killed in terrorist attacks, and to declare support for free speech.

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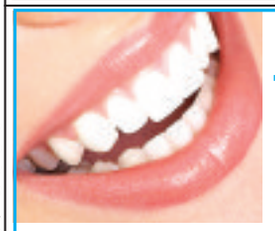
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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (*in certain circumstances*) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

'THANK YOU TO THE GEM'

I FELT I must write and thank you for your very professional service. I lost my dear husband just before Christmas and wanted to put a notice in The Llantwit Major GEM.

The notice you printed included my tribute reproduced in a sensitive font. It was beautiful, and exactly how I wanted it. Thank you and your team with all my heart for your care and professionalism.

Marie Dowdall,
Llantwit Major.

***Editor's note**: Thank you, Mrs Dowdall. Your comments are much appreciated by our GEM staff.*

Wales does well out of the Barnett Formula

– *a GEM reader insists*

IT is apparent from Mr D Kearse's letter of December 18 that the public view of discriminatory funding for education and the NHS in Wales is the fault of the Westminster parliament.

Factually, it is to the contrary, as Wales as a whole benefits from the Barnett Formula by almost 14 per cent more funding per head of population for these departments than the population of England (Scotland benefits by over 19 per cent extra – this does not mean that Wales is being 'underfunded' – just not receiving as much of a bonus as the Scots).

The Welsh Assembly is allocated the additional funding to spend as it sees fit – perhaps the voters in Wales should closely scrutinise where the Assembly allocates these funds and, as Mr Kearse says, ask them to justify this.

Later in that edition of The GEM, the Minister for Finance, AM Jane Hutt, perpetuated the myth by stating several times that Wales should receive a *"fairer settlement … via the outdated Barnett Formula"*.

If that was so and the formula was scrapped for fair application by head of population throughout the UK, the Assembly would receive much less funding.

The Minister, and other AMs, should be ashamed of wilfully and frequently misleading the electorate.

(Name and address supplied)

Jobs figures are open to question

TWO weeks before Christmas, your readers may have been among the 'lucky' constituents in the Vale to receive the latest Tory propaganda put forward by that master of timing, Alun Cairns MP.

In it, he informed us of the achievements by the UK Coalition Government, including the fact that 5,000 more people were in employment due to their efforts!

However, there was no breakdown as to whether this was full or part-time employment, zero hours, or even those on minimum wage.

It must have come as something of a shock to the voters, therefore, when one week later, from a far more reliable source, we in Wales were informed that **un**employment in the principality had increased by 26,000 from the same time last year.

One final question: why no mention by Mr Cairns in his pre-Christmas publication regarding the greatest 'achievement' of the past 4 1/2 years – the record increase of foodbanks in the UK?

Colin M James,
Barry.

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Cultural vandalism threat to historic rural village

COLWINSTON is an archetypal rural village which has developed slowly over time (about 1,000 years) around a purely agricultural base of farms and associated trades, with a church, vicarage, chapels, a school, a pub and workers' cottages.

In the last 150 years, the agricultural core has reduced, the associated trades have vanished, and small developments of new houses have been added.

Nevertheless, it remains essentially a traditional rural settlement surrounded by working farms and productive farmland, centred now on the church, the school, the village hall and the pub.

Children walk or ride their bikes and scooters to school, horse riders can ride safely through the narrow lanes, farmers drive livestock from field to field, while agricultural machinery navigates the narrow roads through the village and the lanes surrounding it. Most of the village is a conservation area.

Villagers have always welcomed small scale development, which brings new energy to the community. However, the proposal to impose an urban housing estate upon this small village is completely out of scale with its nature and requirements.

It is a repeat of the 19th century cultural vandalism driven by the profit motive which we rightly condemn in the Welsh valleys.

Then there were no planning officers to protect the beauty of the valleys, praised by Wordsworth amongst others.

Now the local planning officer supports the development, despite having the power (and the duty) to protect the countryside and historic villages of the Vale from large scale, inappropriate development, driven by profit – rather than need.

Section 7(1) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 requires planning authorities to pay special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character and appearance of a conservation area.

Planning Policy Wales (s.72.1) supports this. Once the damage has been done it cannot be put right. Once a development of this size and difference in character from the surrounding village is in place, the entire nature of this historic landscape and settlement will be irretrievably destroyed, as well as the quality of life of its inhabitants.

It is likely that the Welsh Government will, in the near future, increase the protection of valued settlements and landscapes, but this will come too late to save this fragile village.

How can this sort of inappropriate large scale vandalism be allowed by the very authorities who should be preventing it?

The future will pass judgement, but by then it will be too late and the lessons of history once again ignored by those who should know better.

Despite all the fine words, we have been disenfranchised, without redress against the financial power of large commercial organisations and the wilful abuse of power and process by those who should know better.

Elizabeth Nash,
Colwinston.

'Low cost carrier vital to future of Cardiff Airport'

COUN Philip Clarke (GEM letters, January 8) is exactly right in his assessment of the dire state of Cardiff Airport.

Without a low cost carrier providing regular flights at a reasonable price, flying to places that people actually want to travel to, I am afraid the airport will continue to haemorrhage money that could otherwise be spent more effectively on local needs.

For example, the cost of providing the T9 bus service which plies back and forth to the city every 20 minutes for up to 20 hours a day with seldom a single customer aboard, is beyond belief.

Why can't we see some innovative thinking and take a look at other models, such as that employed by Auckland Airport where a low cost minibus service provides a link with the city.

Why do we continue to subsidise this hugely expensive service when we can't afford to run local rural bus services?

Small French airports such as Bezier and Carcassonne, where my husband and I fly three or four times a year, have made themselves profitable by attracting low cost airlines.

This then has a huge effect on the local hinterland and promotes small businesses locally, hotels and tourism. Indeed, there is a marked effect on property prices around these airports, known as the Ryanair effect.

I fly abroad at least 10 times a year and I never use Cardiff Airport for obvious reasons.

Indeed, the only flight which was of any use to me (Cardiff to Glasgow) has now been withdrawn.

Please can we see someone with a commercial aviation background appointed to the roles of chairman and managing director of Cardiff Airport?

Perhaps it's not too late to save the airport from disaster and provide a welcome boost to local small industry and to tourism.

Dr Alex Rees,
Llantrithyd.

'Don't let this application bypass LDP'

CEG submitted their planning application to the Vale Council on December 22 to construct 390 houses and a link road on the 39 hectare (96 acre) Darren Farm greenfield site in Cowbridge.

Details can be found on the Vale of Glamorgan planning register, under the application number 2014/01505/OUT http://vogonline.planningregister.co.uk/PlaRecord.aspx?AppNo=2014/01505/OUT

The area proposed is double the size of the site in the LDP.

If approved by the council, this development would bypass the Welsh Government Local Development Plan process and all the consultation representatons which have been made on this site and would avoid the examination of the plan by an independent planning Inspector.

We maintain that the democratic LDP procedure should not be subjugated to the interests of landowners and developers.

Residents who agree should strongly oppose this application and not allow the LDP consultation process (with all the hard work put in by the council and residents) to be bypassed by this opportunist, unsound and premature planning application.

Details of the planning factors involved will be posted shortly on our website www.savedarrenfarm.co.uk.

Chris Pearce,
Coordinator, Cowbridge and Llanblethian Residents Group.

HONOUR THE UNSUNG HEROES…

I HAVE just received a letter from my council asking for nominations for the Queen's New Year's honours list for 2016.

I now feel it is time that instead of those who have political connections, or civil servants who get paid for helping the community or country, unsung heroes are honoured.

Many people do not get recognised for their achievements and deserve it, like those who volunteer – such as the RNLI, Foodbanks, charity volunteers, school governors and deserve to be recognised.

Do you have any suggestions?

Coun Richard Bertin,
Independent, Vale of Glamorgan Council.

***FOOTNOTE**: The GEM would like to hear our readers' views on this issue. See contact details on this page.*

Joseph's amazing technicolor dream suit for Santa!

***LEFT**: Five year old Joseph models the winning design that gave Santa a festive air in Barry.*

IN the run-up to Christmas, the High Street traders in Barry invited local schools to take part in a festive competition.

To enter, the children were asked to design a colourful suit for Santa, and the winning design was made into a jumper.

One lucky winner was Joseph O'Leary, who is five years old and attends Cadoxton Primary School.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JANUARY 22)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
15 Thur	00.47	7.6	13.19	7.6
16 Fri	01.56	7.6	14.28	7.8
17 Sat	03.08	8.1	15.36	8.5
18 Sun	04.17	8.7	16.33	8.9
19 Mon	05.11	9.4	17.34	9.5
20 Tues	05.59	9.9	18.23	10.0
21 Wed	06.47	10.4	19.11	10.3
22 Thur	07.31	10.7	20.41	10.4

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Young chefs battle it out in Rotary competition ... AND THE HEAT WAS REALLY ON!

NINE aspiring young chefs felt the heat in the kitchen at Cowbridge Comprehensive School on Monday, January 12 as they battled for a place in the next round of the Rotary International Young Chef competition.

They were not only trying to outperform the other competitors, but were also under time pressure as they had to create in just two hours an appetising three-course meal for two, with a total ingredient cost under £15.That's quite a challenge in itself these days!

The overall winner was Gwennan Potter, who prepared the following menu: Starter, goat cheese and sun-dried tomato bruschetta on a bed of mixed leaves; mains, Coq au Vin served with creamed mash potatoes and French beans; dessert, crêpes served with a raspberry coulis and homemade banilla ice-cream.

Peter Teague was the runner-up with a menu of carrot and coriander soup with poppy seed rolls; two meats lasagne and pannacotta with strawberry coulis and shortbread.

The other competitors were Carys Barwell, Alisha Cornish, Danielle Webb, Tom Frost, Esmee Jones, Lydia Hurford and Selina Radcliffe. Certificates and prizes were presented by the president of Cowbridge Rotary Club, Mike Macphail.

Gwennan and Peter will go forward to the next round of the competition. The costs of the competition were sponsored by Huddarts Restaurant and each competitor received a gift token, courtesy of the Arthur John & Co. Kitchen Shop.

The competition judge, Andrew Huddart, owner of Huddarts Restaurant, said: "It was a difficult task to choose the winner as the overall standard was very high and all the competitors showed a passion for food and a knowledge of cooking skills."

Kath Mallows, head of design and technology at the school, added: "This Rotary competition gives an excellent opportunity for pupils to show their capabilities under pressure."

The Rotary Young Chef competition, with the national winner going on an expense-paid trip to visit top chefs in Italy, was created to give young people across Britain and Ireland the chance to display their creative talents with food while discovering the importance of healthy eating.

The Cowbridge Rotary Club would like to thank the sponsors and Cowbridge Comprehensive School for their support.

If you would like to know more about Rotary International and its Youth Programmes, please contact Rotarian Peter Moug on 01446 776807; or email membership@cowbridge.rotary1150.org.

RJW

ABOVE: Gwennan Potter receiving her certificate from Rotary president Mike Macphail and chef Andrew Huddart.

Looking back and looking forward at WI!

THE January meeting of Ystradowen WI was held in the village hall on Wednesday, January 7, when the theme was 'Memories are made of this'.

Members were invited to share an event which held a very special memory for them.

President Jan Foyle chaired the meeting, and wished everybody a very happy and healthy new year.

As we had no guest speaker this month, the business was held first. Apologies were given for members unable to attend and minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Gaynor Thompson confirmed that the visit to the BBC is arranged for April 21 at 2.30pm and she has a list of members wishing to attend. The maximum number allowed is 20.

Gaynor also reported that our gifts sent for Women in Refuge had been received with great enthusiasm. In fact, the organisers were overwhelmed with the number and the quality of our gifts. We all feel this is a worthwhile thing to do at Christmas time. We have so much and these less fortunate women have so little.

A centenary lunch and fashion show is being held at Norton House Hotel in the Gower on April 29. This was greeted with great enthusiasm and many members expressed a wish to attend. Fashions will be provided by Solo, a ladies fashion shop in the Mumbles.

Members who wish to attend 'A Taste of Wales' hosted by Llanharry WI were asked to pay the required £10. It was agreed to hold our New Year lunch in The Bear Hotel, Cowbridge, on Wednesday, February 25.

Resolutions which WI propose to put forward to the Government were discussed and members voted for their personal choice. Secretary Moira noted the numbers voted for in each of the seven resolutions. These will be forwarded to the Federation.

It was then time for members to share their own particular memories and we had a very diverse range. Some went back to early childhood and some were special holiday experiences. Many were humorous but some were rather sad.

The January walk will take place on January 21 and our coffee morning in the Vestry on the 28th. The monthly meeting will be on February 4. The speaker will be Mike Baker telling us of his Peruvian experiences. As always, visitors and new members will be made welcome.

EL

COMMUNITY NEWS

Your local correspondent is
NANCY DAVIDGE
"Tynewydd", Llangan.
(01656) 860303
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Christmas to forget!

I BECAME ill a few days before Christmas with a flu bug and was prescribed an anti-flu tablet which caused internal poisoning to my system.

I was evenually taken to the Princess of Wales Hospital, but there was no bed available, so I had to return home to be cared for by my daughter.

I am now feeling much better and looking forward to being out and about.

Poor planning

LOOKING back to 2014 and the number of concerts which took place in the villages of Treoes and Llangan/St Mary Hill, I would have thought a little cooperation between the organisers would have been even more successful.

We had the Christmas pantomime in the St Mary Hill hall on the same day as the carol concert in Saron Chapel, Treoes, which was followed by a tea party in the village hall.

I hope in future years Saron and St Mary Hill will get together so the children can enjoy both events.

Saron service

A SERVICE will be held in Saron Chapel,Treoes on Sunday, January 18 at 3pm. Officiating cleric, Rev Steven Parc. Everyone welcome.

Get Well

GOOD wishes are extended to Treoes resident, Mrs Betty Hill from everyone at the Young At Heart Club who send their love and hope she will soon be well enough to join them.

WORK TO START SOON ON REPLACING ST BRIDE'S ROAD BRIDGE

Report by PHILIP IRWIN

A MAJOR engineering project costing almost £2 million to replace an aging railway bridge between St Bride's Major and Ewenny is set to go ahead in February.

If all goes to plan, it will mean that a section of the B4265 will be closed from Monday, February for a total of five months.

Residents are being invited to a drop-in session to find out more about the project, which should improve traffic flow.

St Brides Road bridge, between Ewenny and St Brides Major on the B4265, will be transformed from a one-lane bridge to a structure with increased capacity which can support two lanes of traffic and a pedestrian footway.

Clearly, a two-lane bridge will mean that the existing single lane traffic lights can be removed.

The bridge is also being raised slightly so that it will be able to accommodate any future electrification plans.

The £1.9m project is jointly funded by Network Rail and the Vale Council.

Residents wishing to find out more details about the plans can attend a community event on Monday, January 19, at St Brides Major Church-in-Wales Primary School between 3pm and 7pm.

Members of the Network Rail project team and the Vale Council will be on hand to answer any questions and explain how the work will be carried out.

Loren Curry, programme manager for Network Rail Wales, said: "We are rebuilding St Brides Road Bridge as part of our work to provide a modern, bigger and better railway for Wales.

"The bridge is coming to the end of its life and therefore needs to be replaced. We've worked closely with the Vale Council to deliver an improved bridge.

"We have planned the work to be completed in the safest and most efficient way.

"I apologise for any inconvenience caused and I'd like to thank drivers and residents in the area for bearing with us as we do this vital work."

Coun Rob Curtis, the Vale Council cabinet member for the environment, said:

"This work is great news for both drivers and pedestrians as the new bridge will provide not only increased capacity for cars but also a new footpath.

"Network Rail has worked closely with the Vale Council regarding a diversionary route through Ogmore and Southerndown, which will be clearly signposted.

"Both Network Rail and the ValeCouncil apologise for any inconvenience caused during this essential work and will do everything possible to minimise disruption."

Residents who would like additional information can call Network Rail's 24-Hour National Helpline on 08457 11 41 41 or the Vale Council on 01446 700111.

Regional Tory AM, Andrew RT Davies, commented : "This work is long overdue and the area has been something of a bottleneck, causing significant delays and frustration to local motorists.

"These welcome improvements will increase the flow of traffic in the area, but it is vital that the work is completed on schedule, unlike recent work at Gileston Bends in the Vale where residents have endured endless delays."

Ladies choir's open night

THE Cantorion Pontyclun Ladies Choir is holding an open night on January 27 at 7.30pm at St Paul's Church Hall in Pontyclun (the choir's venue for future rehearsals).

Contact Helen Wilson, musical director, on 07951059246 or Ann Dunstan on 17977244584 for further information.

LEARNING SOBERING FACTS ABOUT DRUGS

LLANBLETHIAN WI's first meeting in January took on a somewhat serious topic – drug issues, when the presenter was Sadie Alexander, who is a health promotion practitioner.

Sadie works with many groups in society, such as the police, schools, industry, and any other group who wish to know more about drug or alcohol-related problems.

The presentation took an overview of substance awareness; firstly, the definition of a drug as a drug as something that alters the way you think, act, or feel, which starts with a cup of tea, coffee or a glass of wine – all legal substances but nevertheless a drug.

We then went on to learn about Ecstasy and Cannabis.

Thirdly, we discussed drugs and their categories, broken down to four main categories: stimulants, depressants, hallucinogens, and painkillers, including opiates.

We have a very varied programme for 2015 - why not join us on the second Thursday of every month, at 7pm, in Llanblethian Church Hall?

VG

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BELATED REFLECTIONS ON WHAT WAS A HECTIC FESTIVE SCHEDULE!

'TIME flies' as they say, or, more accurately to quote Virgil "irretrievable time is flying" – and here we are in the middle of January and only now am I wishing readers of The GEM a Happy New Year.

Once again, I can only look back on the previous few weeks and reflect on the variety of events that the Mayoress and I have attended. Not surprisingly, in the season of Advent, musical events and more particularly, carols have featured prominently.

But the first sign of Advent in Cowbridge was, of course, our now celebrated Nativity and reindeer parade. I don't know who was counting nor indeed, how they counted, but 15,000 was widely quoted as the number of people in town that day.

The Mayor's role was simply to welcome Father Christmas to town and later to welcome the celebrities who turned on the Christmas lights – so I was able to share the enjoyment of the residents and visitors who all so clearly had a good time.

Of course, behind the scenes was a huge amount of volunteer effort to make the day such a success, and my thanks and congratulations go to all those who contributed.

We were delighted to attend two events in Cardiff, hosted by Cardiff and the Vale Music Service, showcasing the talents of young people throughout the two authorities' areas and subsequently we shared the pleasure and pride of parents and staff at Cowbridge Comprehensive when we attended the school's Christmas concert.

Each visit I make to the school I come away impressed with the sheer talent and enthusiasm expressed in so many ways by the entire school community.

Two particular carol services stand out – locally at St John's, Llanblethian – and, by invitation of the Mayor of Barry, a candlelight service at St Mary's, Holton Road. As the Mayoress is a Barry girl, this was a nostalgic pleasure for her.

We were away visiting family over Christmas, so missed other services but, suffice to say, we have sung more carols this year than most previous years!

We also were delighted to be invited to the Christmas lunch organised by the Royal Voluntary Service in the Lesser Hall and also fitted in a visit to the Southway residential home to wish the residents and staff a happy Christmas.

So, once again, a full and varied programme with many memories to look back on – and the diary is already filling up for the weeks ahead!

Coun Peter Knapp,
Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian.

COWBRIDGE MAYOR'S **DIARY** by Coun Peter Knapp

Mum's fear as son endured wait for ambulance and delay at hospital

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Wendy's son had already been diagnosed with the debilitating HSP virus during one of his two stays at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, during November.

She says the events of that early morning on December 28 have left their mark on her.

"My son passed out twice. When the ambulance came to the house, he collapsed outside and they had to bring him a wheelchair."

She had explained to the ambulancemen that her son had been diagnosed with a serious virus and was disappointed that he had to make his own way down the stairs. Following his collapse outside, the ambulance men realised how serious his condition was and stabilised him in the ambulance.

He was taken to the Princess of Wales Hospital where Wendy, her son and the ambulancemen were faced with a frantic scene.

"When we arrived at the hospital it was like a cattle market – but the staff were doing what they could.

"In the corridor, my son was put on a machine – he was deteriorating and had no colour in his lips."

She said: "We had to go back out to the ambulance and sit for three and a half hours while a bed became available."

She was constantly in fear because her son's blood pressure was falling alarmingly. "At one stage, it was 75 over 37."

Wendy pleaded with staff to let her son in because he was deteriorating and she felt he was a priority.

"I spoke to a woman on reception, explained that we'd been on the ambulance for three hours and told her what his blood pressure was.

"I said he shouldn't be in an ambulance, he needed to be attended to."

He was given a bed in A & E and stayed there until 4.20am the next morning.

"I have to take my hats off to the doctors and nurses running around in cramped facilities. They need to be commended for working in that environment. It was bursting at the seams."

One thing that infuriated Wendy was that when her son was being dealt with in A & E, two of the people who were taking up the time of staff were there because they had drunk too much.

She said she wanted the public to realise that ambulance delays were not the fault of the service; the problem was they were being forced to keep patients on board until beds became available. She thinks if there were more beds, it would reduce bottlenecks in the system.

"When we originally arrived, there were three ambulances ahead of us with people waiting in them.

"It is not the fault of the ambulancemen if they can't get back out to attend to other patients, if they are waiting in a queue outside a hospital."

'LIFE OR DEATH'

Wendy's son was in a serious condition, and both the Ambulance Service and hospital stressed they would have more time to help acute cases if those with minor ailments didn't go to A & E.

A Welsh Ambulance Service spokesman emphasised the service was operating in tough times and response times remained challenging.

"The Welsh Ambulance Service must ensure that we prioritise a swift response to all life-threatening calls across Wales, while our partners at the health boards are making every effort to ensure that patients are taken off ambulances as quickly as possible to allow the crews to be released to answer the other emergency calls.

"Recently, the ambulance service and the NHS in Wales had an exceptionally busy festive period, the effects of which are still being felt.

"Demand was unprecedented, and it meant we were unable to respond to some calls in the time we would have liked.

"We are working with our health board colleagues on a daily basis to minimise delays and ensure the smooth flow of patients through the departments."

The spokesman said the public should think carefully before calling an ambulance. Less serious injuries like cuts, bites, muscle and joint injuries can be dealt with at minor injury units – enabling ambulances and A & E to get on with serious threats to health.

"People who dial 999 for something which transpires to be a minor illness, like a cough, cold or toothache, or minor injury, such as a broken toe, mean our call handlers and crews are pulled away from others whose situation is potentially 'life or death' – like someone in cardiac arrest, or having a stroke or involved in a serious road accident. Lots of people who call 999 may simply need to see a pharmacist or GP.

"Please only dial 999 if someone is seriously ill or injured, or their life is at risk."

Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board has had problems with people going to A & E with minor injuries, but following a recent appeal numbers arriving at the Princess of Wales A &E department went down by a third.

The board explained that this has been a huge help to emergency staff who have been able to concentrate instead on very sick patients who need them most.

'PULLING OUT STOPS'

ABMU Chief Executive, Paul Roberts, commented: "I want to say a very big thank you to the public for their co-operation over the last few days.

"This current sustained period of exceptional pressure on our services (late December, early January) is far more than we normally experience during the winter.

"We are pulling out all the stops to treat patients as quickly as we can, and the support of the public in this is crucial.

"I would continue to appeal to them to avoid our emergency departments unless they are seriously ill or injured.

"I must also thank our staff for working incredibly hard during this highly pressurised time."

The board emphasised it is working closely with social care and community services to ensure patients who are well enough to be discharged can go home without any unnecessary delays. It is also managing the flow of patients through hospitals to free up beds.

Llantwit girl is off to Yale!

ELLIE ATKINSON, a year-13 student at Llantwit Major School, has just received some excellent news – she has been awarded a place at the prestigious Ivy League Yale University in the USA.

Ellie Atkinson is off to Yale.

Ellie attended a summer school in the USA as a guest of the Fullbright Commission after fierce competition for places.

She was then given a student mentor at Yale who encouraged her to apply, due to her excellent academic record and sporting talent.

Ellie is studying chemistry, biology, maths, further maths, and the Welsh baccalaureate.

She is a cross country runner and a middle distance track athlete and has represented Wales in both disciplines on numerous occasions.

She will shortly be taking part in the next Welsh Championships for cross country where she is hoping to retain her title.

A school spokeswoman said: "Ellie's determination and commitment to succeeding in her application got her through and the school is very proud of her.

"While Llantwit students are always very successful in their university applications, having a student apply to Yale was a first."

WI takes the road to Mandalay – from Boverton!

AT the first meeting of 2015 at Boverton WI, resident, Joan Davies thanked the committee for all their hard work in organising the 'in house' Christmas celebrations which were enjoyed by everyone.

Members were also appreciative of the WI centenary badges which had been presented to them and they were proudly on display.

Joan read out a letter of thanks received from the Princess of Wales neonatal unit in respect of the donated bonnets which had been knitted by Pam and Jean at the knit and natter afternoons.

During formal business, the federation letter was noted and members voted on seven resolutions for the annual meeting – and the decision was 'Public Access Defibrillators'.

We were then taken on a fascinating journey, courtesy of Pam and Cled Lewis, on the 'Road to Mandalay'. They had recently travelled to Burma, also known as Myanmar, a country that has only become a tourist destination in the last few years.

During their informative talk, we were shown magnificent photographs of the Shwedagon Pagoda covered in gold leaf, life on the Ayeyarwaddy river, the reclining Buddha, outstanding countryside scenes with villagers and robed monks going about their daily life, colonial buildings, hill stations and botanical gardens.

Members thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and their photographic work is the envy of everyone.

The monthly competition, 'a souvenir from the Far East,' was won by Wendy Jackson and the raffles by Helen Meakins and Pam Lennox.

The next meeting will be on February 12 and members are reminded that the birthday celebration evening on February 19 will commence at 6.45pm.

LL

The local brewery that made world headlines over 'Tiger' is up for sale

The brewery celebrated Tiger's love of the ladies with the 'Tiger Would' tipple.

ABOVE:
The Queen's Diamond Jubilee was celebrated in Welsh pubs with the 'Still Reigning' brew!

RIGHT:
Here's to a new chapter in the Vale of Glamorgan Brewery story! Dave Walbeoff and Ian Teagle want their award-winning business to be in the hands of someone with an enthusiasm for craft beers.

by TIM CHAPMAN

THE owners of a Vale brewery that made world headlines during the Ryder Cup in 2010 have put it up for sale.

The Vale of Glamorgan Brewery has established a fun reputation over its decade in business and came to prominence when golf's greatest tournament was held on Welsh soil.

The brewery, owned by Dave Walbeoff and Ian Teagle, poked gentle fun at Tiger Woods by brewing a 'Tiger Would' bitter – referring to his much publicised love of the ladies!

Dave said: "We were struggling for a name and Ian came up with up with 'Tiger Would' as a joke.

"The press cottoned on to it and it went ballistic! I made an appearance on a Radio Wales' show hosted by Jamie Owen, and it made national headlines."

In fact, it made headlines as far afield as Canada , Australia, and on a US golfing blog.

The Ryder Cup isn't the only big event to be immoratalised with a Vale of Glamorgan brew.

Dave explained: "We've made a real name for ourselves in doing special occasion bitters, such as 'Still Reigning', celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, and 'Love is in the Heir', marking the royal wedding of William and Kate.

"Over the years, we've developed a quirky, likeable image. We've had a great run over the last few years and decided to sell it on to someone who can move it to the next level.

"We are currently looking for potential buyers for the brewery – people who have a passion for craft beer and the desire to expand the business.

"The beers are well respected and the brand is well known locally but it requires a new shot of energy and enthusiasm to expand further.

"The year 2014 was a great one for us winning the 'Champion Stout of Wales' award from CAMRA.

"We even had someone drive down from Ascot especially to buy their Christmas beer from us as they thought our Nugget Golden Ale was the best beer they'd ever drunk!"

The asking price for the brewery, which is based at the Atlantic Trading Estate in Barry, is £120,000. Enquiries should be directed to 07743 329140 or dave@vogbrewery.co.uk

For more details on the sale, see the advertisement on page 33.

TO THE MANOR GARDEN BORN!

'HIDCOTE Manor Garden, Gloucestershire, Yesterday and Today' is the title of an illustrated talk to the Llantwit Major Horticultural Society by Glyn Jones, head gardener, on January 28 at 7.30pm in Llantonian Hall, Llantwit Major.

Under the stewardship of the National Trust, a team of gardeners is researching and recreating the original garden of Major Lawrence Johnston, which in 1907 was like no other.

The story of this botanist and plant hunter will also be revealed, and photographs of plant hunting expeditions today.

All are welcome. The hall is situated on the Boverton Road behind the library at the back of the rugby club car park. Admission is free.

GOOD START TO THE CENTENARY!

THIS year sees the 100th anniversary of the Women's Institute in the UK and at the first meeting of the year in Southerndown WI, three new members joined – welcome to Elaine, Lynn and Liz.

We were also pleased to see two visitors who had come along to see what we do and we would be delighted if they also chose to join us.

Meryl, our president, had quite a lot of information to pass on to the group regarding future events, including a planned trip to Denman, the WI's college in the Oxfordshire countryside; and celebrating the start of summertime with an afternoon tea at a local hotel. The next meetings of the walking group, quilting group and reading group were also finalised, with members being reminded that all the groups are open to everyone.

The main part of the meeting consisted of discussions on the topics from which this year's national WI campaign will be selected. Seven very different options were explained and discussed, before members voted for the one they believe should go forward for discussion at the annual meeting to be held in London during June.

Finally, there was a hearty rendition of 'Happy Birthday' sung specifically for our long-standing member, Joan, who celebrates her 95th birthday this month. Very best wishes for your birthday, Joan, from all of us!

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£500K grant will help local charity 'transform lives' of the homeless

BRIDGEND is on track to host the first Emmaus community in Wales after the Welsh Government stepped in and awarded the charity a half-million pound grant, *writes PHILIP IRWIN*.

An Emmaus Community is a building where homeless people are offered accommodation and support, and in turn they will work in the charity's network of shops.

The Welsh Government has provided the cash through the Communities Facilities Programme, which enables community and voluntary groups, as well as social enterprises, to bid for capital grants of up to £500,000 to improve community facilities for vulnerable local people.

Announcing the grant, Lesley Griffiths AM said: "The Emmaus facility will help reduce homelessness in south Wales, while having a life-changing effect on the people using the service.

""I encourage other community and volunteer groups who want to create opportunities in their area and tackle both the causes and effects of poverty to apply to the fund.

"We want to see improved facilities in the heart of communities, benefitting individuals and families now and in the future."

Emmaus is a homelessness charity with 24 successful projects in England and Scotland. The funding announced today will support its first project in Wales – the renovation of Nant Lais, a former sheltered accommodation block in Cefn Glas, Bridgend.

The refurbished building will provide high quality accommodation for 23 homeless people.

This will help residents to gain work, move into private rented accommodation and eventually ensure they can support themselves and live stable, fulfilled lives.

Tom Clarke, the director of Emmaus South Wales said: "Emmaus South Wales is delighted to be able to proceed with renovating Nant Lais, a former sheltered accommodation in Bridgend, and turning it into a vibrant Emmaus Community home for 23 formerly homeless people.

"We believe that we can make a real difference to those affected by homelessness; the fact that this is Wales' first Emmaus Community makes it really special.

"We are grateful to the Welsh Government and our other funders for their practical support and confidence in us as an organisation.

"It is also important to recognise the months, and in some cases years, of hard work put in by Emmaus South Wales trustees, staff, volunteers and supporters which has taken forward the vision of setting up an Emmaus community in South Wales and turning into an attainable reality."

The grant will enable Emmaus to buy the property, which is currently owned by Valleys to Coast Housing). As soon as Emmaus take possession, the refurbishment will start.

Mr Clarke went on: "We think that a realistic timescale is to take in our first companion in 12 months time."

He explained that the companions are required to sign off any benefits, apart from housing benefit which goes to Emmaus, and work a 40-hour week.

He said that getting back into the world of work had the potential to transform lives.

In only a few years, Emmaus have been able to open a string of charity shops in the area, and these have been raising funds to adapt the building in Cefn Glas.

When that is up and running, the five shops, two in Bridgend and one each in Porthcawl, Maesteg and Neath, will raise funds to maintain the community house.

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Charlotte is star of GEM animal welfare appeal

by GEM REPORTER

Charlotte was keen to help animal rescue charities during the Christmas period and one day would like to be an animal psychologist.

A Vale schoolgirl was a major contributor to The GEM's animal welfare appeal over the Christmas period.

Charlotte Attwell, aged 12, who attends Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School, in Barry, donated dog food and toys after thinking of original ways of raising money.

Charlotte said: "I arranged family games like bingo and charged 50p a go. I also put a collection tin in the porch and asked my family and friends to donate on their way in and out.

"I have helped to rescue three dogs who live with us – that's why I wanted to help the appeal, for dogs that haven't got their own families. I'm adopted, so I know how important it is to have a new home with a loving family."

A number of Welsh-based charities benefited from The GEM's appeal.

In the past, Charlotte has raised money for Hillside Animal Sanctuary and Bullies in Need.

When she leaves school she would like to work as an animal psychologist.

Child *workers mixed raw clay with their feet* – ***for 12 hours a day!***

ON January 6, Michael Ashcroft presented an interesting and informative talk to Dinas Powys Probus Club entitled 'Nantgarw China', detailing the events leading up to its creation and demise.

The moving force behind the company was William Billingsley, whose aim was to produce the whitest and most translucent possible porcelain.

Born in 1758, he served his apprenticeship in Derby but left after 20 years to start his own company. However, the enterprise failed due to the unacceptably high failure rate during burning in the kilns, as high as 97 per cent, and in 1808 he accepted an invitation to move to the Cambrian Pottery at Swansea.

During the journey from the Midlands, he passed through Nantgarw and realised that it would at some time be a good place to start a china works, as it had a canal close by for transport in of Somerset clay and goods out to London.

Billingsley was a hard task-master. Children were employed to mix the raw clay by puddling it with their feet, working a 12-hour day in freezing conditions in winter.

Halfway through the process, he added his 'secret ingredient', still a mystery to this day, to achieve his aim of perfect porcelain. He only spent four years at Nantgarw, 1816 to 1820, before moving on to Coalport. Much of Nantgarw china is now in America. Billingsley died in 1828, aged 70. **CR**

COLWINSTON RESIDENTS SET TO OPPOSE REDROW HOUSING PLAN

by PHILIP IRWIN

RESIDENTS in Colwinston have submitted a rapid response to plans to build 64 homes in the village but are concerned that their views will not be taken fully into account when the planning committee meets tonight (Thursday).

The community council has been spearheading the opposition to an application by Redrow Homes to build 64 homes on a field close to the village school.

Matters came to a head in early December when council planning officers released details of an amended application by Redrow, and this time the officers recommended that the plan should be passed.

The chairman of Colwinston Community Council, Geoff Bates, explained: "The field where the houses are planned floods regularly, and the plans we saw in December had an "infiltration basin soakaway" – basically a pond – in the middle of the site.

"The planners seemed happy and were now recommending that it should go ahead, but we were not.

"The village has had five documented instances of flooding since 1994, and adding 64 homes to a village with 130 at the moment can only increase that risk.

"Therefore, we ordered a hydrology report on the proposed new system, and it raises serious questions about how effective the proposed system will be.

"We want to be sure that the councillors on the planning committee have time to consider this report deferring the decision would make more sense."

Mr Bates stressed that the community council were not making a 'NIMBY' objection to the plans. He said that the council had supported plans for Colwinston in the past – in particular one that was on higher ground where there was no issue with flooding.

He went on: "We want more housing – in particular affordable housing – because we want our children to be able to afford a home here.

"Colwinston has enough half-million pound homes."

This point highlights another objection made by the community council – that Redrow have been given a very good deal.

Mr Bates said: "The Vale Council criteria is that 35 per cent of housing should be "affordable" but Redrow have been told that 25 per cent is acceptable, which seems like a good deal for them.

"We would be happy to see 100 per cent affordable, because that is what the village needs – but not on this site."

Returning to the infrastructure problems, he said that there were already occasions where sewage was discharged into streams in the village, and that the community council feared that the new development could only increase this.

Mr Bates said: "There is a valve near the sewage pumping station that opens when the storm water system is overwhelmed, and raw sewage is pumped into the stream. Welsh Water has tried to fix this but it has still happened four times since November."

However, the Vale Council planning department showed no sign of changing its recommendation to the planning committee.

Marcus Goldsworthy, the Vale Council's operational manager for development control, said: "The application for 64 houses on land to the rear of St David's Primary School, Colwinston, is being reported to the planning committee today (January 15) with a recommendation for approval.

"Residents' comments, including the drainage report prepared on their behalf and an updated report, are included as an appendix to the planning application and will be considered by committee.

"The council's drainage engineer has considered the application with regard to surface water drainage and has confirmed that subject to satisfactory conditions requiring the detailed engineering design of the drainage scheme prior to commencement, and the payment of a commuted sum to the council for maintenance, they are satisfied with the proposed drainage scheme.

"Welsh Water have also confirmed that they do not object to the development – subject to the upgrade of the Cowbridge Waste Water Treatment Works.

"These works are scheduled for completion by April 1, 2018. The Local Planning Authority will be recommending that this is required both by condition and as part of a legal agreement, recommended as part of the report to committee.

"The issues raised by the community council have been fully considered by the relevant consultees and there is no reason that the application should be deferred, given that no objections have been raised in this regard."

The Redrow application is for a residential development of 64 dwellings, open space, landscaping, vehicle and pedestrian access onto the road to the west, with a mix of detached, semi-detached and terraced houses and one bed apartments.

The application proposes the disposal of all surface water via an infiltration basin soakaway located within the middle of the site, with foul drainage being managed by a foul pumping station that will discharge via a rising main to an adopted foul sewer that crosses the site.

ABOVE: The field where the housing development is planned, showing the flooding that already takes place during wet weather.

RAINBOWS HOLD FUNDRAISER EVENT FOR THE DAISY GARLAND

A FUNDRAISER was organised by the 1st Barry Rainbows to raise money for 'The Daisy Garland' charity which is a family-run, national, UK registered charity which aims to offer help and support, in whatever way they can, to children whose lives are touched by drug resistant epilepsy.

A spokeswoman said: "The event raised money from craft stalls, raffle, games as well as tea, coffee and cakes.

"1st Barry Rainbows would like to thank all the parents and families for their support with this event, and to the local businesses that kindly donated prizes: Sainsburys, Premani and Adventure Island.

"The event raised over £236 for The Daisy Garland and the girls were delighted to have raised so much to support a charity which is close to our hearts."

Newydd boosts Jon's Alzheimer's fund

Paul Roberts, chief executive of Newydd Housing Association, presents a cheque for £1,000 to Jon Hussey (on left of picture).

A HOUSING association has donated £1,000 to a charity appeal after a Barry man completed 21 gruelling sporting events during 2014.

Newydd Housing Association challenged Jon Hussey, who lives in Barry and manages Philippa Freeth Court at Dock View Road, to complete 21 events during 2014 for a £1,000 donation to his appeal.

Jon completed his 'Series of Unfortunate Events' over Christmas and raised a fantastic £3,078 for Alzheimer's Research at Cardiff University, smashing his target of £500.

Jon completed numerous runs and challenges during the year including the Porthkerry 5, the Blenheim Palace Triathlon, South West Tough Mudder and he finished with the Nos Galan Run in Mountain Ash.

Jon sadly lost his grandmother to the disease and vowed to raise money for research to understand, and to one day halt or prevent this terrible illness.

He said: "I want to thank Newydd for making such a huge donation to 'A Series of Unfortunate Events'.

"I was so pleased when I was told how much they were willing to donate that I even made sure I crossed the finishing line at the Blenheim Palace Triathlon with an extra spring in my step!"

"I want to also thank staff at the Cardiff University Alumni Department, who have been really supportive and encouraging and of course, the Research Team.

"They're the guys doing the work that will one day lead to a breakthrough.

"It was a pleasure to meet them last year and learn about the important work that they are doing. It was most certainly a privilege to raise money for them."

Jon is taking a break but hopes to restart fundraising in a series of challenges in 2016.

To view photos from his challenge or to donate further, please visit www.facebook.com/2014aseriesofunfortunateevents.

Computer classes

FREE computer classes at Cowbridge Library include 'Searching the Internet' on January 20 from 10am – 12pm; and 'Family History – Records before 1837' on Wednesday, January 28 from 5pm – 7pm. Contact the library on 01446 773941 to book a place.

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Watersports centre on way at Number One dock

A GREAT step forward to the creation of a watersports centre, took place when Barry Community Water Activity Centre signed a licence agreement, which gives controlling access to water in No 1 Dock at Barry Waterfront.

BCWAC will operate from opposite Morrison's supermarket on land in the middle of the Waterfront known as the Mole.

All use of the No 1 Dock for recreational, training, competitions, in all forms of water activities, including sailing, sail boarding, canoeing, rowing, power boating, dragon boat racing, rafting, regattas etc will be operated totally through the Ocean Watersports Trust, from the Barry Community Water Activities Centre at 'the Mole'.

The compliance with the terms of the licence will be the responsibility of the operations committee, in conjunction with the management committee.

Secretary Philip Walters said: "This is a major step forward and our operating licence should give confidence to potential grant bodies, sport governing bodies, potential partners that we are making good progress and have the capability to deliver this project for the community."

The group has recently undertaken early works on the access road to the site.

The next phase is to construct the slipway and tenders are currently being sought to undertake the necessary enabling works.

Water activities such as sailing and rowing are scheduled to commence at Easter.

An updated website has been launched along with a fundraising scheme www.bcwac.org/.

The community voluntary organisation is seeking more volunteers, supporters, partners, users, and especially funding streams and grants.

Several phases will result in a special building that can accommodate training, changing rooms, showers, toilets, and other related facilities.

Pictured signing the licence agreement are secretary Philip Walters and chairman Chris Basten whilst fellow management committee members Charles Wilson and Keith Williams overlook proceedings.

Senior citizens' advice forum

AGE CONNECT Cardiff and Vale is holding a free legal advice session at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, on Tuesday, January 20 from 10am to 12 midday.

If you are over 50 and worried about a legal matter, or need some advice, go along. No appointment is needed.

This free session is held monthly at the café. Information centre by a local legal service. Contact 01446 732385 for further information or just come along.

Benefits advice

FOR anyone needing help on benefits such as pension credit, attendance allowance, housing benefit or disability living allowance, Age Connect Cardiff and Vale run a welfare rights service which can help you with any of these issues.

A session is being held on Tuesday, January 20 from 9.30am to 11.30am at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry.

Home visits can be arranged. Contact 01446 732385 for further information.

Lottery cash for Heritage Coast

THE Big Lottery has awarded £224,760 grant to the Vale Council to boost the Heritage Coast.

The project, led by the council's rural development team Creative Rural Communities, aims to encourage the economic development of UK coastal communities and sustainable economic growth and jobs.

The money will be used to support the expansion and creation of micro enterprises in the area. Funding has also been awarded to replace the existing slipway at Dunraven Bay in Southerndown, along with storage units for on and off shore activities.

WHAT'S ON / in brief

Valeways walks

Tuesday, January 20 at 10am, Hoffi Cerdded, Hoffi Coffi; meet outside Cowbridge Library.

Wednesday, January 21 at 10.30am, the Coffee Shop Strollers meet outside the visitor centre at Cosmeston Country Park, Penarth.

Vale volunteers

VALE Volunteer Bureau has more than 500 volunteering opportunities on offer.

For full details, contact the bureau, 34 Holton Road, Barry, Monday to Friday at 10am – 4pm. ***Tel 01446 421782, or email info@vvb.org.uk.***

Council deals with storm toll

VALE Council workers were called out to deal with 29 incidents during last weekend's storms.

The council's highway maintenance team removed and logged 15 fallen trees on the county's roads, with one falling on private land, and another removed by a local farmer.

There were five reports of lanterns hanging by electrical cables from street lights, all of which were repaired, and concerns raised regarding the stability of trees, which have been investigated, it stated.

VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

Danter plans will transform Island

Vale MP **ALUN CAIRNS** reports to GEM readers

LAST week, I took Communities Secretary Eric Pickles MP to visit Barry Island Pleasure Park, as prospective new owner Henry Danter unveiled his plans for the site.

Co-owners Ian Rogers and representatives from Hilco were also present, along with community group representatives Paul Haley of Pride in Barry and Dennis Harkus of Focus Barry.

I have long campaigned to secure the regeneration of Barry Island, and it was fantastic to see all parties meet together so that we can move forward with the plans.

It is a site that has so much potential, and could make Barry Island the undisputed premier seaside resort in south Wales.

Mr Danter is extremely keen to transform the resort, and he has big plans for it. He wants to invest £2 million over the next year and up to £20 million over the next five years, with 10 new rides open by April.

He also wants to build an undercover facility, which is particularly pleasing since it is vital that the attraction can be used all year round. His enthusiasm cannot be doubted, particularly since he told me that he wants to be open every day, apart from Christmas.

Mr Danter's plans will bring many new jobs to the area, as well as attracting more people to the resort. This will make it a real asset not just to Barry but to the Vale as a whole, turning it into a renowned attraction.

The next step is to make sure that the proposals get planning permission, with a meeting scheduled for February. Mr Danter and Hilco have been working with lawyers to make sure that all conditions are satisfied – if permission is granted, the attraction will be open by Easter.

Eric Pickles was fully behind the plans too, and was absolutely right when he told me that they show a confidence in Barry and that they are a great statement for the local economy.

The entire community seems to be behind the plans, and it is important that we move forward as quickly as we can and set the ball rolling.

It is vital that we seize this opportunity and do not let it pass us by. We must do all we can to make it happen.

Colleagues 'saddened' by death of local paediatrician

FRIENDS and colleagues at the University Hospital of Wales are mourning the loss of a leading children's consultant, Dr Damian Pryor, who lived in the Vale.

The medical director at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, Dr Graham Shortland, said Dr Pryor, a consultant paediatrician, had devoted his professional life to the care of children who were seriously ill.

He said: "Dr Damian Pryor, tragically died in a kayaking accident in the Swansea area yesterday (Monday, January 12).

"Dr Pryor became a paediatric intensive care consultant here at the University Hospital of Wales in 2002.

"Before that, he was a lead consultant at the paediatric intensive care unit at King's College Hospital in London and had dedicated his career to the care of seriously ill children.

"We are greatly saddened by this tragic event and send our deepest condolences to his family and friends."

Highways dept keeps traffic moving in Vale

DESPITE the storm overnight on Tuesday and Wednesday, with rain, sleet, hail and snow, there were no problems on the main roads of the Vale the next morning.

Michael Clogg, operational manager highways and engineering, said: "Our teams were out from midnight to daybreak salting roads across the Vale. As a result of this all main roads were passable in the morning."

There were reports that a house in St Athan was struck by lightning during the storm.

Organisation for animal welfare is dismayed by dead foals found in Ewenny lane

AN animal welfare organisation has expressed its revulsion that two dead foals were dumped recently in Heronston Lane, Ewenny.

A spokesperson for Voices Against Neglect & Abuse of all Horses said: "A resident from Heronston Lane in Ewenny discovered these two dead foals down the road from their house on January 5 while walking their dog

"This was the third time in less than two years that the resident has discovered dead foals in this lane, the last was gutted like a fish when dumped.

"Both are black and white gypsy cobs. They were tied together and wrapped around with baler plastic then tied to a fence post and dragged off a trailer.

"South Wales Police have been notified and an incident number has been raised.

"We would appeal to anyone with information to contact the police on 101. Someone might have seen a vehicle, but not paid attention to it at the time."

GEM NOTE: If people are unable to care for horses – or for that matter dogs or cats – there are a number of animal welfare charities in Wales who will respond to appeals for assistance and do what they can. There is no excuse for neglect or cruelty.

Hospital radio station in line for six awards

HOSPITAL Radio Glamorgan has received six nominations in the Hospital Broadcasting Association's prestigious National Hospital Radio Awards (NHRA) 2015.

These include nominations for station of the year; best specialist music programme: the Beatles; best special event: Cardiff Half Marathon; best newcomer: Byron Brain; male presenter of the year: Jamie Pritchard; and best programme with multiple presenters: The Celtic Gals.

The winners will be announced at the Hospital Broadcasting Association Awards ceremony in Newcastle on March 28.

Hospital Radio Glamorgan is a registered charity run entirely by volunteers at University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff.

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ABOVE: Relaunch of Dinas Powys cinema – left to right: John Fanshaw of the Dinas Powys community cinema, Coun Val Hartrey, Coun Ian Johnson, and guest of honour Keith Hatton, vice-chair of the local Community Council.

Dinas Powys cinema re-launch proves a hit

THE relaunch of the community cinema in Dinas Powys was voted a huge success.

A large appreciative audience saw the film *Pride,* described as a historical comedy drama.

Starring Bill Nighy and Imelda Staunton, it tells the story of a group of gay activists who decided to help striking miners at Onllwyn in the Swansea Valley in 1984.

The event also celebrated the new projection equipment that had been funded in part by Creative Rural Communities and by Dinas Powys Community Council. Coun Keith Hatton, vice chairman of the council, was guest of honour on the day.

There is a monthly film showing with *What We Did on Our Holidays* on February 14 starring David Tennet and Billy Connolly.

On March 14, it's *Mr Turner* which is an exploration of the last quarter century of the great, if eccentric, painter JMW Turner's life. The doors open at 6.30pm for 7pm.

On April 11, there is a children's matinee performance of *Paddington Bear.*

More details are available on the Facebook page of Dinas Powys Cinema Club.

John Fanshaw, on behalf of the community cinema, said he was delighted that the relaunch of the club had been such a success and looked forward to more great films. The audience appreciated the bar which was run by Judith Anderson and team. **CF**

Welsh Michelin chef backs Food Festival

THE Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival has announced that Michelin star chef James Sommerin will demonstrate at this year's show. which will, for the first time in its 11-year history, take place in May.

For the first time in its 11-year history, the show will take place in May, starting on Sunday, May 24, and continuing on Bank Holiday Monday, May 25.

James Sommerin, who won his Michelin star as head chef of The Crown at Whitebrook in 2007, will appear on the Monday at 12:45pm in the Demo Theatre to demonstrate his passion for food with distinct flavours and local heritage.

Welshman James and his wife Louise now own Restaurant James Sommerin at The Esplanade in Penarth.

Bar 44 and The Bear Hotel will also take to the demo stage, as well as festival favourite Anand George. Anand is the multi-award winning chef behind Cardiff's Purple Poppadom, and will be a familiar face to frequent Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival-goers, having appeared there numerous times.

In recent years, thousands have flocked to the town to sample the high quality artisan produce available, although its late-October slot has sometimes had to deal with poor weather.

It is expected that the late-May time will mean that the event will be bigger than ever.

John Davies, the festival chairman said: "We're delighted to confirm James Sommerin as a guest demonstrator at the festival, and he joins what is looking to be an exciting line-up.

"We've enjoyed a hugely successful 10 years of the Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival and by moving to May, when the weather will hopefully shine on us, we expect to attract a wider audience to enjoy this fantastic weekend of food and family fun."

More details about the food and drink festival can be found on the newly-launched website ***www.cowbridgefoodanddrink.org***

Tickets, which cost £5 per day or £8 for the weekend, can also be purchased online for the first time with a 10 per cent discount on all pre-sale tickets. Children 12-and-under go free.

This year's Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival takes place on Sunday, May 24 and Monday, May 25. Please visit www.cowbridgefoodanddrink.org

Youth Council gets off to a bright start

YOUNG people from schools and youth organisations across Barry have elected 18 young people to be their youth councillors for the town.

The youth council, known as Barry Youth Action, consists of young people aged between 11 – 18 to represent all young people in Barry. The primary objective is to work closely with Barry Town Council to ensure that the views and ideas of young people are listened to and taken into account when decisions that affect them in the town are being made.

Over the next three months, BYA members will be training to be effective youth councillors. The training will be developed and delivered by the Vale of Glamorgan Youth Service which is running the youth action group as part of a joint venture with Barry Town Council.

Following the three months of training, youth councillors will begin to engage with youth issues in the town, get involved in projects and activities to help make Barry a better place for young people and play an active part in community events organised by Barry Town Council.

Being part of BYA will provide many benefits for young people in Barry. Members will accrue volunteering hours that can count towards their Welsh Baccalaureate, Duke of Edinburgh Award and Millennium Volunteer Certificates. Furthermore, being part of a youth council also enhances young people's college, university and job applications.

For more information about this exciting new project, readers can email valeyouthaction@gmail.com or phone 02920 701 254.

GE

CHARITY COFFEE

THE National Autistic Society's Cardiff and Vale branch will hold an open coffee morning at Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry, CF62 8DN on February 7 (10.30am-12pm)

Contact www.cardiff andvaleautism.org.uk or nascardiff@nas.org.uk.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.
Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."
Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'
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...And then there were two on the Ramblers' walk!

TWO Penarth and District Ramblers were lured out to join Geraint in the pouring rain at Cogan for the penultimate journey in the Festival of Winter Walks and climbing uphill to reach St Dochdwy's Church in Llandough.

Their first stop was to view the lovely carved Sutton stone Irbic Pillar Cross in the churchyard, which dates back to the 10-11th century.

Slithering downhill through muddy woodland paths and crossing Penarth Road the route through Grangemoor Park, built on an old rubbish tip, led on through Dunleavy Drive, Watkiss Way and Victoria Wharf to Pont y Werin, where one walker decided to call it a day.

Carrying on along the slippery boardwalk around Cardiff Bay and crossing Clarence Bridge to pass through Hamadryad Park and into the Wetlands Reserve, another slippery boardwalk around St David's Hotel led to Mount Stuart Square.

Rapidly passing the Mermaid Quay, the delightful terracotta Pierhead building, the Senedd, Norwegian Church, Scott Memorial and Dr Who Experience towards the barrage, suddenly a gusty wind hit them straight in the face, before pathways beside the Penarth Marina with its variety of moored boats, led them uphill and back to Cogan Leisure Centre.

NEWTON WALK

THE following day dawned bright and sunny as twelve walkers and Jodie the dog joined Joy, Bracken and Bronte at Newton on the last festival walk.

Crossing Black Rock and Traeth yr Afon beach on their journey to the fast flowing Ogmore estuary with its large flock of Canada geese and following sandy paths inland beside a raging stream, a number of wooden kissing gates led to Merthyr Mawr car park, where the path ahead was under deep water, so they deviated along the road to Ton Farm.

On crossing old stone stiles and heading uphill through fields towards Candleston Farm, only to find another deep stream was flowing across the bottom of the meadow, by partly wading then jumping across to reach more solid ground, they finally carried on uphill to a road.

Some extremely muddy footpaths at Merthyr Mawr Warren led into pretty woodland at Cwm y Gaer.

Following narrow sandy paths through bracken and heading through a housing estate, St John the Baptist Church came into view.

Tramping through the deserted churchyard and crossing the green, the group made their way back to their start point.

On January 17, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for an 8.5-mile moderate walk from Penmaen on Gower with lunch at the King Arthur (please notify the leader the day before if you require a pub lunch); contact Robin on 029 2051 4051.

To follow the group log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

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More flights from Cardiff Airport

EUROPEAN airline Flybe is to add weekly flights from Cardiff Airport to Düsseldorf to its summer schedule, with one way fares from £39.99 (including taxes and charges) available for booking at www.flybe.com.

It will operate on Saturdays between April 25 and October 3, using one of Flybe's 88-seat Embraer 175 jet aircraft.

Regional AM calls for a hospital bed review

A Conservative regional AM, Suzy Davies, has called on health chiefs to review the number of beds needed to meet a rising demand from frail and elderly patients.

It came in the wake of news that hospitals throughout the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg area have been under immense pressure as they struggle to cope with the number of patients needing treatment.

She said: "This is Groundhog Day. We have been here before. The ABMu Health Board has blamed the problem on an increase in the number of frail, elderly patients being admitted for emergency care and who need longer hospital stays than younger patients.

"They said that almost half their beds – 45 per cent – are occupied by patients aged 75 and over.

"But health boards have been ditching hospital beds in favour of more care at home for years.

"In principle, that's a good idea – but when it goes wrong, it's A&E for our elderly and then bed blocking while discharge packages are negotiated with cash-strapped social services."

Mrs Davies said that while there was no Government formula about how many beds were needed per thousand patients in Wales, it was high time that somebody sat down to do the sums.

She went on: "The Welsh Government has closed a fifth of all hospital beds in Wales over the past decade.

"This trend has to be reversed and extra beds opened up.

"It is totally wrong that last week, for several hours on one day, we had ambulances parked up with patients on board because of a log jam in A&E.

"And that log jam was caused by the fact there were no beds available to put people into.

"People are dying because our ambulances are not getting to them in time; and to be fair to ambulance bosses, how can they respond to emergency calls when so many vehicles are sitting outside hospitals?

"This problem has been going on for years and nobody is tackling the root cause which is insufficient beds.

"We need to work out a ratio within ABMu of the beds that we need in our area and then people can lobby Welsh Government to find the extra money for them.

"Their decision to cut £800m over three years from the health budget has had disastrous consequences."

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NEW MEMBERS FOR LOCAL RAINBOWS

The Rainbows' enrolment ceremony.

A COLOURFUL ceremony was held at Crossways Methodist Church Hall to mark the enrolment of the newest members of Girlguiding.

Sarah Thomas, Unit Leader, officially welcomed Evie, Isabel, Aimee, Carys, Libbie, Ruby and Amy into the 1st Barry Rainbows unit at the ceremony held recently in front of proud parents, relations and friends.

A spokesoman said: "Being a Rainbow is all about learning, developing self-confidence, building friendships and of course having lots of fun! We have 18 girls currently in the unit and they all really enjoy the weekly meetings."

If you would like to join in the fun as a girl or adult volunteer, contact Jayne Newcombe on 01446 409282.

The Welsh St Valentine...

A CHARITY evening of opera delights at Giovanni's on Park Place, Cardiff, January 21 will celebrate Santes Dwynwen, the Welsh Saint of Love's day (January 25).

According to Welsh forklore, in the 5th Century, Dwynwen fell in love with Maelon Dafodrill, who returned her feelings – but sadly, they could not be together.

Dwynwen, distraught, prays to fall out of love with him and is visited by an angel, who appeared carrying a sweet potion designed to erase all memory of Maelon and turn him into a block of ice.

God then gave three wishes to Dwynwen. First she wished that Maelon be thawed; second that God meet the hopes and dreams of true lovers; and third that she should never marry.

All three were fulfilled, and as a mark of her thanks, Dwynwen devoted herself to God's service for the rest of her life.

George Thomas Hospice Care will hold an evening of fine food and opera at Giovanni's on Park Place, Cardiff, on January 21 from 7pm, with stars of Welsh Opera as they sing romantic West End hits and light opera.

Tickets £28 each, available from the charity on 029 2052 4150. See www.gthc.org.uk for further information.

INTO THE NEW YEAR – AND THE NEXT 100 YEARS!

THE Rhoose WI mixed business with pleasure at the January meeting with a cheese and wine social evening, combined with voting on the national Federation's proposed resolutions for the 2015 campaign.

President Jenny Reed greeted everyone with a toast to the New Year before business began.

Minutes were then read and approved and financial, social and welfare reports given.

Craft Club members were informed that this year's project would be knitting for the charity 'Fish and Chip Babies.'

The shortlist of the seven proposed resolutions was read.

These were: 'The Next 100 Years' (the unacceptable level of gender discrimination that still exists); 'Plant a Tree for the Future'; 'Widening the Public Access to Defibrillators'; Failing to Care' (The assessment of need in long-term care); 'Cutting Back on Food Waste'; Ending Female Genital Mutilation' ; Curbing the use of Antibiotics'.

Each member voted and the results will be submitted to the National Federation of WIs and amalgamated with the votes of all other WIs in the UK.

The chosen Resolution will be announced in May.

After the conclusion of business, thoughts turned to the social side of the evening as the members began a knockout tournament of indoor curling.

The champion curler was Brenda Roe.

The competition cup for 2014/15 was awarded to Jan Dally; the winner of the raffle was Ray Reynolds, and the monthly competition was won by Pam Jupp.

Members were reminded of events in January: Craft Club, January 15 at 2pm at 5 Odyn's Fee; Lunch club at 12.30pm on January 22 at The Three Horse Shoes, Moulton; skittles at 2pm on January 23 at Rhoose Social Club; and coffee and chat every Tuesday at 'Coffee Time', Rhoose.

The next WI meeting will be on February 5 at 7.30pm in the Community Hall, Stewart Road, when the speaker will be Clara Revera, whose subject will be 'Out to Learn Willow.'

New members and visitors welcome.

JJ

Tales of the Mari Lwyd

TOMORROW (Friday, January 16) the Cowbridge Mari Lwyd group will be making their annual pilgrimage around the town, visiting various hostelries.

They will commence at the Duke at about 8.30pm, calling at the Vale of Glamorgan pub and Edmondes Arms.

A mare's skull, decorated with bells and ribbons, has been led from house to house in the depths of winter by gangs of revellers, in a tradition dating back many centuries.

The Celtic people's reverence for the horse is well known, and the mare's visit to farming families was said to bring fertility to the land in the year to come.

A white sheet attached to the skull is draped over the head and shoulders of the man who carries it, and a mechanism is usually rigged up allowing the jaw to be opened and closed to frighten the women and children!

The 'Fari' in Cowbridge, which nowadays visits pubs in the town early in January, has coloured plastic eye sockets in front of flashing light bulbs to give an eerie effect!

Traditionally, Mari was led by a man wearing a top hat or bowler, called the Sergeant, and they were joined by a gang of men and sometimes boys.

Mari knocked on the door of the farmhouse, and the men would sing: "Wel, dyma ni'n dwad, gyfeillion diniwad, i ofyn 'sgawn gannad i ganu" ("Well, here we come, innocent friend, to ask permission to sing").

Inside the house, the family, and sometimes the local bard who'd been bribed with beer to help out, would reply in verse.

A sung dialogue would then ensue in which the Fari would demand access and the family refuse, until no-one could invent any more verses.

At this point, they would open the door and the group be plied with food and drink.

Legend has it that on one occasion, both groups had such prolific poets that the bardic duel continued thoroughout the night, and Mari didn't gain entry until dawn!

The custom existed in Cowbridge until the 1930s, with the verses by then sung in English.

Mr Bill Lewis, who arranged the modern Mari's antics in the town each year, told how he and other youngsters followed the revellers across the fields from farm to farm.

He remembered one of the verses he sang, which corresponds to one of the traditional Welsh verses: "Through bushes and briars, O'er mountains and mires, We wish you a happy new year."

In Pencoed, the Fari was still visiting farms in the area in the 1960s and the village of Llangynwyd is known to have a long tradition of Mari Lwyd visits.

In Monmouthshire in the 19th century, the custom was encouraged by Lady Llanover, and a hologram-style depiction of the Fari Lwyd remains above the door of the old post office in the village of Llanover.

MP SAYS 'SHOP AROUND FOR FUEL PRICES'

THE VALE Conservative MP Alun Cairns said this week that Vale residents are paying over the odds for petrol and heating oil and that he had raised the matter with the Chancellor, who has called on fuel companies to pass on the reduction in oil prices to consumers.

"Petrol prices in the Vale can be two or three pence higher than those in Cardiff and Swansea.

"The price differences for heating oil between some suppliers can be stark, as much as £50-60 on 1,000 litres," the MP said.

He is recommending that consumers "shop around and switch to a cheaper supplier to save money".

"Heating oil prices by some suppliers to the Vale have not reduced since mid-December. This is despite the fact that the price of oil has fallen dramatically.

"The price per litre in December for heating oil was 44 pence, a level that remained the same earlier this week," he added.

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Out and About with The GEM

Excellent performances shine in Miller's slow-burning Foxcatcher...

THOSE who had pegged Channing Tatum as being a lunk-headed action star would have been surprised when he displayed his aptitude for comedy in both *21 Jump Street* and last year's sequel.

Having shown a funny bone beneath his muscles, Tatum attempts to show he is capable of deeper, more dramatic roles in Bennett Miller's *Foxcatcher*.

Tatum plays Olympic wrestler Mark Schultz in this true-life tale. Along with his brother David (Mark Ruffalo), he joins up with 'Team Foxcatcher', led by eccentric multi-millionaire John du Pont (played by Steve Carell) for the build-up to the 1988 Olympics; but this union soon turns sour and relationships deteriorate with terrible consequences...

Director Bennett Miller has shown a flair for bringing true-life stories to the big screen, having told the story of Truman Capote's relationship with killer Perry Smith in *Capote*, and how Billy Beane upset the baseball applecart in *Moneyball*, a sports film that was more focused on the mathematics of sport than actual on field activity.

Foxcatcher lands somewhere between these two, the film having the backdrop of a sports biopic, a tale of battling to achieve greatness and the toll it takes on individuals, with a study of relationships and how those relationships develop and crumble through both internal and external events.

Miller is a director who appears capable of drawing exemplary performances from his cast (having achieved three Oscar nominations and one win from his previous films), but he also has the ability to focus on the minutiae of characters, studying them and allowing the cracks to appear slowly but surely. Both of these

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

talents are to the fore in *Foxcatcher*, the film a slow-burning, atmospheric piece whose lack of urgency does occasionally lead the story to wane, but showcases some truly incredible performances.

Miller's direction is measured and mannered, cold and clinical; you feel he has invested in these characters less on an emotional level and more on an observational level, his camera lingering on close-ups of the actors who, more often than not, are framed in conversation one-on-one.

He is unhurried and focuses on the characters moving the story along, the camera lapping up the relationship of John and Mark, admiration becoming something more and more dysfunctional, and being muddied even further when David unwittingly becomes part of John's psychological game.

The characters of John and Mark are the key pieces in Miller's story, with the parallels of their lives making them uncomfortable brothers in arms (Mark had no friends growing up, Johns best friend was paid by his mother), the circumstances of their lives the real difference with each longing for what they think the other has.

But as the relationship develops, lines are crossed, wittingly or unwittingly, and the film becomes a study in the slow breakdown of it, Miller recording events as they unfold with a detached eye.

It's a home for some incredible performances, with both Steve Carell and Channing Tatum playing against type and delivering incredible turns. Carell, in particular, gives the character of Du Pont an air of eerie creepiness, a feeling that all isn't right; while the script gives you the bare bones of his backstory, Carell fills in the blanks with a scary stillness.

Tatum may be on slightly more familiar turf as a physical specimen, but he gives the character of Mark tremendous depth, essaying his highs and lows with incredible guts. Both characters are slowly unwinding into the depths of something darker, but while Carell finds the unsettling behaviour of Du Pont, Tatum's is the more 'showy' role as Du Pont's mind games unravel.

Mark Ruffalo plays the third wheel of the acting triumvirate, but his performance is no less noteworthy, if not granted any grandstanding moment. David is the character least affected or troubled, so Ruffalo's quiet turn of conviction, finding himself caught between the troubles of Mark and John, is impressive if less stand-out than the other turns.

The languid and atmospheric pace of the film does annoy at times, as the film would perhaps benefit from a tighter, less self-indulgent edit. Miller takes a long time to tell the story, but any issues as regards pacing can be overlooked thanks to a trio of excellent performances and an intriguing story that makes *Foxcatcher* a superb film.

VERDICT: It's three for three for Bennett Miller, as *Foxcatcher* maintains the director's hot streak, the true-life story brought vividly to the screen. Its pacing may feel slow, but it does allow Miller to bring out wonderful, against-type performances from Steve Carell and Channing Tatum, and a solid turn from the always-dependable Mark Ruffalo, which make it a tremendous piece of work.

Highly recommended.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Moneyball* (2011), *The Aviator* (2004).

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D861:

- **£2,000:** 554123.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £2,000 was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 556059, 800788, 114125, 754731, 423997, 435676, 275102, 763051, 433788, 641968, 965791, 369313, 574223, 959118, 562360, 478540, 570123, 691943, 634396, 243302.
- **£5:** 404188, 221718, 716894, 583546, 292140, 674306, 399060, 684519, 531920, 135876, 716290, 892247, 828307, 923547, 774959, 135058, 101644, 661094, 147064, 893443, 192643, 122489, 594559, 495926, 386516, 719996, 997300, 542482, 742750, 641587, 549740, 410489, 800899, 389089, 178439, 578963, 271367, 605743, 733390, 651499, 462604, 921399, 113295, 456590, 806085, 817568, 858510, 804913, 646773, 371025, 133983, 431458, 711982, 899661, 817283, 778428, 202957, 191222, 424957, 69.

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For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

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FILM REVIEW EXTRA

Into The Woods is hard work, but it's really worth the effort

THE Disney version of Stephen Sondheim's musical fairy tale *Into The Woods,* arrives in this country after doing good box office in America, and with a mix of three and four-star reviews (and one mean-spirited one from Mark Kermode!) *writes Philip Irwin*.

It's also Meryl Streep's second musical, but this one is as far away from *Mama Mia* as you can get. Whereas the Abba-inspired mega hit was a lightweight story, liberally sprinkled with well-known songs that the audience could wallow in, Sondheim's tale demands pretty intense concentration.

The story is not told simply by the dialogue between songs. Almost every song moves the story on, and comments on the dilemmas and tough choices that the characters face.

Even though the cast do a great job of putting those songs across, it is still 125 minutes of complex story telling.

The show takes several well-known fairy tales: Cinderella, Jack and the Beanstalk, Rapunzel and Little Red Riding Hood and weaves them together with the story of a baker and his wife, and their attempt to lift a witch's curse.

As with all good fairy tales, everything ends happily ever after – until you check your watch and discover there is another 40 minutes to go.

For the rest of the film, the cast has to deal with the consequences of their actions in part one – and the audience learn that there is no happy ever after

There is a fair bit of light relief, because the show is full of sharp one liners that echo Woody Allen at his best, and when the two handsome princes, Chris Pine and Billy Magnusson, sing 'Agony' - their tale of unrequited love for respectively, Cinderella and Rapunzel, the audience was roaring.

I can't think of a weak performance. Emily Blunt as the baker's wife is sharp, sympathetic, and constantly nonplussed by the strange goings on, but finds a place in the audience's collectve heart.

Anna Kendrick is excellent as a conflicted Cinderella, flattered by the Prince's attentions but all the time knowing that it is not really her thing.

Meryl Streep had a stronger voice than I expected, and is a really fine witch, while Lilla Crawford and Daniel Huttlestone are delightful as Red Riding Hood and Jack.

As the wolf, Johnny Depp was...Johnny Depp, with perhaps a bit too much Captain Jack Sparrow, while James Corden was almost perfect as the baker. I felt sorry for James because the baker has a show-stopping number – 'No More' – towards the end of the show which has been cut to keep the running time to 125 minutes!

Rob Marshall's direction delivers a film that is beautiful but dark in tone, using the forest to create a claustrophobic atmosphere that is lifted only when the camera soars upward, into the sky to show the full sweep of this magic kingdom.

It was filmed in Shepperton Studios, and also in ancient forests near Windsor Castle, so there is a strong British element. As well as James Corden and Emily Blunt, well-known British thespians pop up in a lot of the minor roles.

The success of *Les Miserables* on film indicates that there is an audience out there for demanding shows such as *Into The Woods*.

The fact that it has done good business in the USA suggests that it could be the case here. It's a show that has so much to say about the human condition that it would be good to see it succeed in the UK too.

Just don't go there expecting an easy ride!

PHILIP IRWIN

What's on and where?

Meeting is cancelled

THE Cowbridge Senior Citizens' meeting due to be held today (January 15) at the town hall, has been cancelled. The next meeting will be in February.

Photo display

A photo exhibition by Dr Christine Evans, has opened at Travellers Café/gallery on platform 1 at Barry railway station.

The café/gallery is run by Mind in the Vale of Glamorgan with the help of the Vale of Glamorgan Artists and is open weekdays from 7am until noon.

The exhibition runs until February 27.

Jazz weekend

VALE Jazz weekend organisers are planning a 'battle of the bands' event for young people on Saturday (June 20) at the Barry Memo, open to all under the age of 16.

The group is seeking sponsors for the event, said Gemma Collard of Vale Jazz.

"In addition to the plans for 20 bands to play in 10 venues across the town, we would also like to make our event educational and have young people from all backgrounds, including schools, involved."

She can be contacted at misscollard@iCloud.com.

Baruc Artist of the Year

THE Baruc Art Group Artist of the Year Exhibition Shield was presented recently to Jan Parsons, who was voted the winner by public vote for her pastel painting 'Puss' at the October 2014 exhibition.

Who wants to sing with Only Boys Aloud?

WELSH choir Only Boys Aloud is celebrating its fifth birthday with a major recruitment drive for young singers aged 14 – 19.

It was first put together for the National Eisteddfod in 2010, with a podium finish in *Britain's Got Talent*, a performance in front of millions more during the *X Factor* final, a Christmas album, and appearances everywhere – from the Olympics to Buckingham Palace.

Tim Rhys-Evans, OBA music director and artistic director of The ALOUD Charity, said: "With such destructive cuts to music services for young people, it is more important than ever that we offer opportunities to youngsters to experience the positive powers and exhilaration of communal singing.

"OBA provides a safe, fun environment for boys of all singing abilities to experience the highs, joy and banter that being part of a choir can bring."

The choir joined forces with their mentors Only Men Aloud at St David's Hall, Cardiff in a special concert before Christmas.

It will be performing at the opening concert of the Urdd Eisteddfod in May, a big birthday party in the summer, and a large-scale concert at the Wales Millennium Centre in November, with Only Men Aloud and male voice choirs from across Wales, to celebrate 1,000 years of Welsh music for male voices.

• *Auditions take place in Barry on Tuesday, January 20 – at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg at 8.40am; and at the St Richard Gwyn High School at 1.30pm*.

Let us know what's on and where in your area - email us at: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk, and share your events!

Inspirational Sasha wins major award

AN awards night has been held at The Vale Parent and Child Homework Support Club.

A spokeswoman told The GEM: "The club was founded two and a half years ago, starting with just two children as a project to see if we could make a difference to attainment levels.

"We found that we made a massive impact socially as well as academically.

"The aim of the club is to support as many children with learning difficulties as possible; at present we have 26 children on the register.

"The difficulties range from relatively mild to complex array of difficulties. We have many children with medical conditions and development delay conditions.

"A specialist teacher, Mrs Hayley Rees, and a team of dedicated volunteers support the children academically and socially.

"The first awards night took place recently.

"Our major award was given to an amazing young lady, Sasha Williams who was seriously injured in the Rhoose school crash in June 2013.

"Sasha was left with a brain injury after the accident, Sasha has fought to remain on target with her education and she is admired for supporting younger members of the club with their work.

"Sasha is an inspiration, she won the rising star award and the most improved child in her age group.

"Sasha was presented her awards by Councillor Jeff James. We are very proud of Sasha and all the children for working incredibly hard."

The spokeswoman explained: "The club has linked with Disability Advice Project UK this summer and many of our volunteers and parents have completed courses. A total of 28 people attended IT and first aid courses.

"We are very proud of the support we give to lifelong learning 10 of the 28 are now continuing their leaning with Open University courses. Courses that fit around their caring roles."

A raffle took place to raise much needed funds for the club.

For further information on the The Parent/ Child Homework Support Club, please contact Cath on 01446 711041.

ABOVE: The Vale Parent and Child Homework Support Club award-winners.

Barry at War Group opens doors to public

ABOVE: *Glen Booker and Paul Tracy are seen here with early visitors, local AM Jane Hutt and Coun Chris Elmore.*

THE new chairman of Barry at War Volunteer Group, local historian Glen Booker, opened the doors to the public with his team of volunteers last Sunday at their Barry Island station museum.

The group is currently planning its Barry at War weekend in June with John Buxton of the Barry Railway.

It will be welcoming schools to the museum.

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Vale bridge

THE results for the Vale of Glamorgan Bridge club for January 12 are as follows:

First, Julia Evans and Cherry Cadwallader 66.04 per cent; second, Mike Best and Kevin Maddox 63.07; third John Beard and Liam Sheridan 60.85.

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Pleasure Park open by Easter?

A NEW Barry Island Pleasure Park could be up and running by Easter – if Vale planners respond to calls by landowners and developers.

Local MP Alun Cairns said he had brought fairground operator, Henry Danter and representatives of site owners, Hillco, together on Barry Island last Thursday to meet cabinet member Eric Pickles MP.

The site meeting was also attended by Paul Haley of Pride in Barry and Dennis Harkus of Focus Barry.

During the meeting, Mr Danter, who currently runs fairgrounds at Symonds Yat near Ross on Wye and Stourport, Worcestershire, said that he would invest £2million over the next year, and £20million over the next five years. He said it was essential the first phase would be up and running by Easter, which is early April.

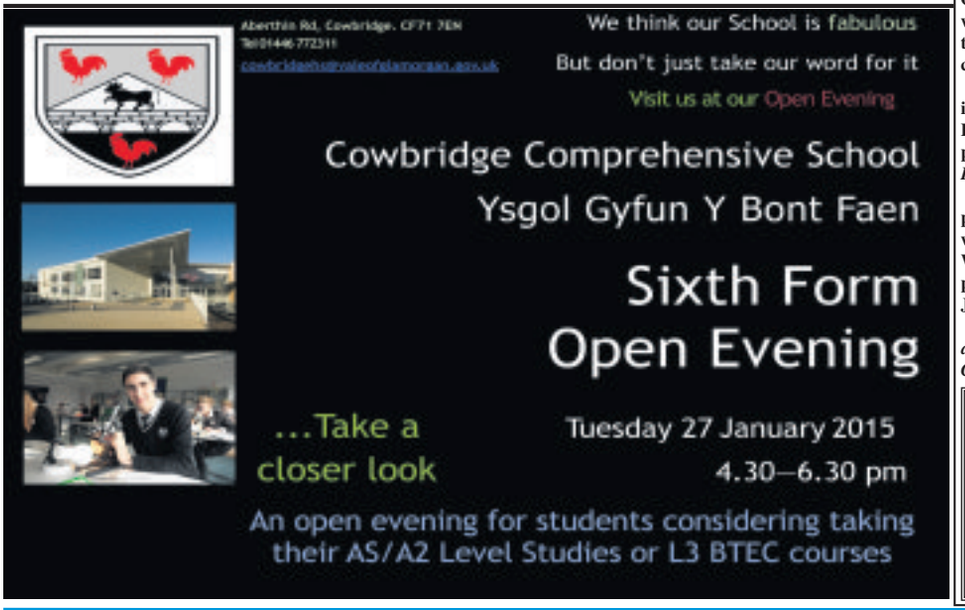
Mr Danter explained: "I want to clear the site and bring 10 new rides by Easter. This is a challenge, but with support from the planners, I know we can do it. I will also bring a new Log Flume to Barry Island, but that will take a little longer."

Mr Cairns said: "Henry Danter's enthusiasm was infectious. The visit from Eric Pickles and others has helped to create a renewed momentum which needs to be maintained by the Vale Council.

"The council has responded positively so far. I was very pleased that Dennis Harkus from Focus Barry was present, as well as Paul Haley from Pride in Barry. It is essential that the community are kept involved with these plans."

Mr Cairns told The GEM that the project is able to come together by converting the Dolphin into retail space on the ground floor, with apartments above, and by using the funding to release the funfair site.

Mr Danter added: "The essential factor in this is to get agreement at the February meeting. Without it, we will lose Easter and the opportunity to attract thousands of visitors."



CHOIR TO BENEFIT!

COR Bro Ogwr will be paying special attention on Friday, January 23, in the Tabernacl Church, Bridgend, where they have their regular rehearsals.

Glenn Crooks, their talented accompanist and conductor Nick Bromilow, fresh from the success of his first concert with Cor Bro Ogwr, in December, will be giving a recital to raise funds for the choir.

Nick, whose main instrument is the French horn, will be playing Mozart's *3rd Horn Concerto*.

Glenn will be performing organ works by Bach and Walton, and piano pieces by Debussy and John Ireland.

Tickets £8 at the door; 7pm, Tabernacl Church, Derwen Road.

Glenn Crooks and Nick Bromilow.

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Brew up for heart charity!

LOCAL residents are being urged to get together with friends, family or colleagues – and hold a tea party or coffee morning for the Welsh Hearts charity.

A spokeswoman said. "Why not have a cake sale at school or in the office, or a coffee morning or tea party involving friends and family and raise much needed funds during the official Wales' Biggest Tea Party month from March 1-31 or any time during the spring," "All money raised in Wales is spent in Wales on heart research, funding defibrillators in the local community, CPR training in secondary schools and organisations, and heart screening sessions."

To register the your Wales' Biggest Tea Party fundraising pack, which contains everything from invitations, ideas, posters to stickers and balloons, contact 02920 786521 or email fundraising@welshhearts.org, or down load a fundraising pack http://welshhearts.org/teaparty.

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'A TALENTED PLAYER AND TOP MAN'

Obituary: Paul Morgan, Pencoed

FORMER Wales Rugby League international, an active rugby player of both codes and local cricket player, Paul Morgan, has sadly died aged 40, following a short illness, *writes IAN GOLDEN*.

Paul, from Pencoed, leaves a wife Heidi, two sons, Tyler and Harry, and daughter Maddison.

He won two full Welsh Rugby League caps and was heritage player number 432. After playing for Pencoed at youth levels, he made his break into first class rugby union in 1995 when studying at Brunel University in London, turning out for London Welsh.

On moving back to Wales in 1999, he signed for Whitland RFC, before joining his first Welsh Premiership club in Aberavon in 2000, when he made a two-try debut against Walsall at the Talbot Athletic Ground on August 20.

He played regularly until his last game against Neath at the Gnoll on September 16, 2004, that being his 91st appearance. He scored 30 tries and had a brief spell at Llanharan in 2002.

In 2003, he tried his hand at Rugby League due to the Wizards' link with new Welsh Conference side Aberavon Fighting Irish and in 2004 won his first Wales Dragonhearts (the A side in Wales Rugby League) cap.

He joined rivals Bridgend Blue Bulls RLFC in 2005 and scored a hat-trick of tries in their Harry Jepson Trophy Final at the end of the season. This, and his performances throughout the year, earned him selection for the full Wales side, winning two caps – the first against Ireland in Dublin and the second against France in the 2005 Rugby League European Cup Final in Carcassonne.

He was then snapped up for the first ever Celtic Crusaders squad in 2006. He made 30 appearances on the wing scoring 16 tries, but departed before the 2007 campaign.

However, his affiliation with Rugby League didn't end there. He returned to Bridgend Blue Bulls and won more Dragonhearts caps up until 2009, while in 2013 he helped to organise the main shirt sponsorship of South Wales Scorpions RLFC.

Before his Crusaders spell, he played eight games with Maesteg at the start of their 2005-06 season and following his year in professional Rugby League, he spent a year at Bridgend Ravens then went back to his local club Pencoed, playing union in the winter and league in the summer for a further three years.

In 2009, he moved into coaching and spent two years each with Neath Athletic and Aberavon Quins.

He was also a keen cricketer and played for a number of years at Pencoed Cricket Club, recently as captain.

Paul was loved by all in the Welsh sporting community. He is the first Celtic Crusaders' first team player from the club's six-year history to lose his life.

A selection of the hundreds of tributes already given to Paul...

"I AM extremely saddened by the tragic news about Paul's death. He was an excellent servant of Aberavon RFC and a key player during a highly successful period in the club's history. His time in Rugby League saw him win two full caps for his country and help the Celtic Crusaders achieve an unprecedented rise to Super League status.

"He could talk a glass eye to sleep and was the ultimate optimist; someone who always saw that the glass was half full and never half empty. He will be badly missed by his family, his colleagues, former team mates, and many friends."

Chris O'Callaghan – former chief executive of both Aberavon Wizards RFC and Celtic Crusaders RLFC.

"HAD the great pleasure of knowing you as a friend, coach, player and as your skipper. Always wanted to play rugby the right way that resulted in Nathan Flynn using all his moves down Aberavon Greenstars.

"Never one to shy away from voicing his opinion, even if it was''t what people wanted to hear, hence the fact we got on so well! His passion about winning resulted in him being misunderstood! Winning sexy was the only option."

James Davies, former team-mate at Aberavon Quins RFC and Aberavon Fighting Irish RLFC.

"I'M devastated about the news to be honest. Having known Paul (and his family, especially his mum and dad) since he was a youngster coming through the ranks at Pencoed, he will be missed by all who knew him. A great trainer, a great player and a great bloke. Thoughts are with Heidi and the rest of the family at this tough time."

Wayne Hall, friend and team manager at Bridgend Ravens

"HE was always a character, sometimes a show off but had heart of gold and always gave 100 per cent for every team he played with. Simply a lovely guy who lit up the dressing room."

Simon Green, former colleague from Bridgend Blue Bulls RLFC.

"DEVASTATING news, all the players and members of Neath Athletic RFC, would like to offer our condolences to Paul's family. A talented player and coach and also a top bloke. Our thoughts are with his family at this very sad time. RIP Paul."

Mark Thomas, former colleague from Neath Athletic RFC.

"SO sad to hear of the passing of my mate Paul Morgan – my first housemate in Wales. Took me in and showed me the ropes. Great bloke, great sense of humour. RIP butt !!"

Chris Beasley, former team-mate at Celtic Crusaders RLFC.

"It was a shock to hear the news of Paul Morgan (Pencoed cricket captain) passing. Words cannot express my sadness, beautiful memories with you in the field! RIP"

Thasan Subramaniam, former team-mate at Pencoed Cricket.

"On behalf of Pencoed cricket, my condolences go to Paul's family and friends. We had some great times together on the field. RIP Paul. Love from all his cricket family!"

Layton Williams, Pencoed Cricket Club.

"SO sorry to hear the terrible news. My condolences to the family. A big character for Wales Rugby League. It was a pleasure to work with Paul. RIP."

Wayne Williams, his former coach with Wales Dragonhearts RL.

"ABSOLUTELY gutted to hear the news about Paul Morgan. It was a privilege to play alongside him with the Bulls, Crusaders and Maesteg. Another top bloke taken too young. Thoughts are with his family. RIP mate."

Hywel Davies, fellow former Wales Rugby League international.

"VERY sad news about my mate and team mate in various sides, Paul Morgan. Take stock of what you have and try not to moan about trivial things, more important things in life."

Lenny Woodard, played alongside him with Aberavon Wizards, London Welsh, Bridgend Blue Bulls, Celtic Crusaders and Wales RL.

BRIDES & GROOMS

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THE cold, wet and cloudy weather that we all associate with January and February does have a silver lining – it is the ideal time to plan and research that dream wedding.

Whether you fancy a quiet family get-together with the minimum of fuss, or a spectacular affair that aims to make a real statement, it is essential to start researching all the elements that need to come together for that dream occasion.

As the weather is unlikely to be suitable for pleasant walks, it means that the bride and groom can get out and about in their car to look, for instance, at potential venues.

Brochures are a great help, of course, but actually visiting somewhere that you like the look of can help enormously with the planning.

Small details that are easily glossed over on a website become apparent when you are there in the flesh, and this can help make the wedding go smoothly.

For instance, if elderly relatives are invited, how easily can they get around?

Will it be necessary to make some advance arrangements for anyone with a mobility problem? Thinking ahead can prevent many awkward problems.

Here at The GEM, many of our news photographers do weddings, and one issue that occurs surprisingly often is a simple one:

Does the venue have a suitable backdrop for photos of the happy couple and guests?

It's all very well to choose your favourite pub for the occasion, but it spoils the moment if the bride and groom have to trek half a mile for somewhere scenic.

Again, if the weather lets you down and its blowing a gale, is there a plan B – perhaps somewhere sheltered that still provides an attractive setting?

The perfect wedding is not so much about the grand design, it's about spotting those unexpected pitfalls and dealing with them in advance.

A visit to a potential venue can help things turn out perfect – so keep that in mind when you are making those wedding plans!

PI

Could US trend catch on here?

THEY say that Britain often follows fashions and social trends that are popular in America – just think of Hallowe'en or the more recent 'Black Friday' retail day.

So, could a long-gone tradition in weddings which is making a comeback in the States, find its way across the pond?

What tradition? Well, it is one where the bride and groom exchange wedding presents – and no, the engagement ring does not count!

"Gifts should come from the heart," says WeddingChannel.com, but that phrase covers a lot of ground.

Therefore, here are some tips to keep in mind whether the happy couple decide on some type of jewellery (the traditional and most popular choice) or something else entirely.

• Practicality has its place, but not here. Etiquette governs that gifts are exchanged – the night before the wedding, the morning of the ceremony, or before you leave on your honeymoon.

You can see how this has the potential for disaster if the groom's idea of practical is, say, a toaster.

• Personal is appreciated. One of the best examples quoted is a groom-to-be who had a photographer secretly capture the moment he proposed in New York's Central Park, and then presented the picture to his bride on the day of their wedding!

The downside, of course, is that pulling off something like this requires imagination – and planning!

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Town and Country Hotels

BRIDES & GROOMS

TURN TO PAGE 22 FOR A PROFILE OF EMMA-KATE FRANCIS AND MORE!

Browsing at Tulip Bridal in Barry!

ABOVE and ABOVE LEFT: Tulip Bridal in Barry offers a wide range of wedding gowns and accessories.

What options are there in terms of wedding location?

FOR many people a church is the ideal place to make their wedding vows, but there are other locations in which marriages take place.

Many people are vaguely aware that there are alternatives to the traditional church wedding, so what are some of the options?

Well, the most obvious is a register office. In the Vale, that means the Civic Offices on Holton Road; in Bridgend county borough, that means the Civic Offices in Angel Street.

Then there are premises approved by the local authority such hotels.

If one of the partners is housebound, the ceremony can take place in their home.

In cases in which a partner is seriously ill and not expected to recover, a wedding can take place in hospital.

Naval, military or air force chapels are also licensed.

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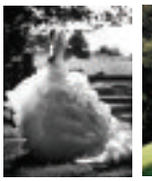

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Emma-Kate Francis IN PROFILE…

Who are you and what do you do?

EMMA-KATE FRANCIS is renowned for designing beautiful, romantic jewellery, handcrafted at her boutique atelier in Cowbridge, Wales.

She her team strive to make top quality pieces made with special care and attention to detail. There are several aspects to Emma-Kate's jewellery designs; bespoke, prét-â-porter and bridal. Her mission is to create timeless and elegant investment pieces of jewellery that her customers can treasure: "I wouldn't make it if I wouldn't wear it", she advocates.

Emma-Kate is passionate about quality in design, materials, production and above all providing a great personal service.

Where are you located/where do you ship to?

HER jewellery boutique situated in the Vale market town of Cowbridge is a showcase for her work and provides a unique place for clients to visit and see work in action at the bench.

Emma-Kate's website, *emmakatefrancis.com* further provides a portal for people all around the world to view her current collections where they can also purchase direct.

Her pret-a-porter collections can be dispatched in one to two days and guaranteed next day delivery within the UK.

How did your business come about?

EMMA-KATE hails from Brighton and is a classically-trained silversmith with a MA from the Royal College of Art. After graduating, she met a Welshman in London and fell in love, so decided to move to Wales in 2008 and set up her own jewellery business.

Having been a bride in 2013, she empathises with her bridal clients: "It can be a really stressful time and so I try and make the experience of buying or commissioning jewellery really enjoyable and honest from the start."

How would you describe your signature style?

EMMA-KATE'S nature is embodied in the style of jewellery she creates, inspired by her love of nature and Art Nouveau.

What makes your designs special?

EACH piece of Emma-Kate's jewellery starts life at her bench, when she creates models until she is fully satisfied with the design: "I might doodle a design, but it is actually when I get my hands on a piece of metal or wax that I really start to have fun and get creative."

Prices start from £20 for freshwater pearl studs, bespoke pieces start from £250, and wedding rings an average of £1,000.

WHAT'S ON, AND WHERE IN YOUR AREA?

Junior rugby opportunities

PENCOED mini RFC under-7s to under-11s are recruiting new players.

Bring your next Welsh squad player to a training taster session on Tuesday evening, 6pm – 7pm at Pencoed college on the brand new 3G pitch.

For further information contact Chris Northrop on 07966 333 236 or email CN@ANSUPPLIES.CO.UK.

Trust meets

THE Vale of Glamorgan Association of National Trust will meet at The Duke, Cowbridge at 7.30pm on January 21 when David Salter will talk about collecting postcards.

Floral AGM

THE annual general meeting of Barry Floral Society will be held at St Nicholas Hall, St Nicholas Road, on Tuesday, January 27 at 2.15pm, when details of the club's programme for 2015 will be revealed and the charity of the year chosen. New members welcome.

Computer workshops

WORKSHOPS are being held in libraries across Bridgend county borough to provide local people with help and advice on using computers and the internet.

Working in partnership with communities, Bridgend Information and Library Service is offering the 'digital literacy' sessions. It says residents attending the workshops will be able to gain confidence in using the internet, for shopping, comparing energy suppliers, or planning and booking holidays. They will also be helped to search for and apply for jobs online.

Adult courses

STARTING this month, adult courses on offer from Bridgend County Borough Council cover arts and crafts, garden design, childcare, lipreading and Welsh. A full list of the courses can be found on the website – *www.aclbridgend.co.uk*.

Choir's two charity dates

BRIDGEND Male Choir will present a concert on February 14 at 7pm in Bethlehem Church Life Centre at Cefn Cribwr, supporting Prostate Wales/Cymru along with Parc & Dare Brass Band.

Tickets, £5 are available at the BCLC venue on tel 745655; Pyle Post Office; Porters Estate Agents, Bridgend and choir secretary Gareth Reese (07773 170373.

The choir has a second charity concert on February 20 at Wells Cathedral. This concert supports the local St Margaret's Hospice and is generously sponsored by Wells Reclamation. In addition to Bridgend Male Choir the congregation will be entertained by three soloists and the choir's own organ soloist, Scott Williams. Tickets £12, available from the cathedral box office.

Pencoed meeting

PENCOED Town and District Twinning Association will hold a public meeting followed by the AGM on February 25 at 7.30pm at Pencoed Miners' Welfare hall.

Further information on the activities of the Twinning Association is available from secretary Wendy McDonald at eric.mcdonald012@btinternet.com (phone 01656 865633).

New Venue for Cancer support group

BREASTFRIENDS (Cardiff and Vale Breast Cancer Support Group is changing the venue where members meet.

In future, meetings will be held in the Masonic Hall, Broad Street Barry. The first meeting is on Friday, January 16 at 2pm.

The group meets on the third Friday of every month and meetings are open to anyone who has had a breast cancer diagnosis and would like to meet others in the same boat to share ideas and for support.

For more information, phone Pam on 07919 035658.

Tribute held for Peter at hockey match

PENARTH Hockey Club's Second XI held on under late pressure to secure a fifth game without defeat to strengthen their position in the Davis Wood Hockey League, beating Llanishen & Caerphilly 'B' 2-1.

The game was preceded by an immaculately observed minute of silence for Penarth hockey and cricket stalwart Peter Hardwick, who passed away shortly before Christmas.

Having ended the first half of the league season with back-to-back 2-2 draws, Penarth's 2nd XI went into the first game of part two hoping to confirm their positional superiority over old rivals Llanishen & Caerphilly, while remaining wary of the goalless encounter they had shared back in week three.

With several key players available for the first time in several weeks, Penarth were spoiled for choice when it came to naming their squad, welcoming back goalkeeper Jason Harris, defensive midfielder Richard Bromiley and the vastly experienced Dave Thomas.

It began with an unfamiliar line-up taking to the field, as the home side decided to keep its big guns warm on the sidelines on what was a blustery day at Barry Sports Centre.

Despite the changes, Penarth started strongly, taking the game to a young Llan & Caer side, with Tom Parkinson, in particular, making inroads towards the visitors' 'D'. As usual, however, it took several missed efforts on goal before the Vale side finally opened the scoring, with Dave Watkins breaking the deadlock shortly before the quarter hour mark.

Following a round of mass substitutions, Penarth took a little time to settle and came under their first real pressure of the game, but weathered the storm to take possession back to the other end of the field, where a series of penalty corners eventually saw Thomas double the lead with a deft shot into the far corner.

Although the visitors' youth contingent were largely contained by Penarth's veterans, Llan & Caer remained a threat thanks to their own elder statesmen, and gradually eased their way back into the came, firing home a penalty corner of their own to reduce the deficit shortly before the interval.

Knowing that a couple of quick strikes after the break could end the game as a contest, Penarth started strongly, with Graeme Jones and Ian Smith providing options on the flanks.

However, just as had been the case at Hawthorn earlier in the campaign, the two sides negated each other for the entire 35 minutes, producing a third scoreless period of their 2014-15 rivalry.

Penarth resisted some late Llan & Caer pressure, thanks in no small part to Harris between the sticks, and emerged with a welcome 2-1 win that cements their seventh position in De Cymru 2.

While the Seconds travel to Whitchurch this weekend, the First XI returns from a lengthy break to host Cardiff & Met 'C' at Barry on Saturday (January 17).

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers regardless of age and ability. Training takes place on the artificial turf at Barry Sport Centre every Wednesday, with the juniors in action between 6-7pm and seniors between 7-8pm.

Further information can be obtained from: club secretary Dave Stevens via: d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk.

CL

Tory forum focuses on health issues

CONSERVATIVE Regional AM, Andrew RT Davies, reported this week that he had held a "positive and productive" forum with local health stakeholders on a long-term strategy to address issues in Cardiff & Vale University Health Board.

It included unscheduled care and staff recruitment and retention issues and was attended by organisations including representatives of the British Medical Association, Royal College of Nursing, and local health board.

The Welsh Tory Leader said: "In spite of the hard work of Welsh NHS staff, Vale residents accessing NHS services over the winter period have faced long waits and cancelled appointments.

"Some of this has been the result of traditional winter pressures; however, there are also systemic issues to address and chronic under-funding by Labour has taken its toll on the Welsh NHS," he claimed.

"The forum we held this week identified many of these issues and we will be bringing forward a series of practical solutions to reduce pressure on frontline staff in Cardiff and Vale."

Fan needs a home!

FAN is a 9 year old Border Collie, who has found herself back in kennels through no fault of her own.

She is quite typical of a working sheepdog; sensitive and worried, but strong.

Fan does mix with other dogs, although she is again a bit worried and would prefer her own space – she would be best as an only dog.

She enjoys her walks, and is happiest in a quiet spot.

She is an affectionate girl who would be ideal for an active home, with a patient collie-experienced owner who will give her time to settle in. Children in the home will need to be 14 years and over.

If you can offer Fan a home, please call us on 01656 725219 or pop into Dogs Trust Bridgend, we are open 12-4pm every day except Wednesday.

LINDA FEAGAN

Concern grows for missing man (47)

SOUTH Wales Police are "increasingly concerned" for the welfare of Adrian Edwards (47) last seen at University Hospital, Llandough at 4pm on Monday, January 5.

He is described as white, 6ft 2ins tall, of medium build with shaven hair. He has 'ADE' tattooed on the side of his neck and was wearing a blue/grey jacket with blue jeans and white trainers with blue edging.

Anyone who has information is asked to call police on 101, quoting reference number 1500005594. Alternatively, Crimestoppers can be contacted on 0800 555 111.

Adrian Edwards.

Cowbridge darts league

ON Tuesday, January 6, we had the first league matches of 2015.

The Edmondes A beat the Farmers Arms 6-3, the Old Post Ladies lost 0-9 to the Hare and Hounds, the Highwayman Inn were defeated 3-6 by the Edmondes B and the Edmondes C lost 0-9 to the top team Llanharry. These results mean that the Edmondes B are beginning to tighten they grip on second place.

Present league standings after 11 matches, are: Llanharry (82 points), Edmondes B (61), Edmondes A (52), Highwayman Inn (51), Hare and Hounds (48), Farmer's Arms (40), Edmondes C (38) and Old Post Ladies (22).

On Tuesday January 20, the semi-final and final of the Clive Blick Trophy will be played at the Old Post. The semi-final line-up is: Trish Kinman, Steve Simmonite and Cedric Simmonite (Edmondes A) versus Sally McCaver, Rob McCaver and John Izzard (Hare & Hounds) and Maureen Fleming, Nigel Thomas and Robert Jones (Farmers Arms) versus Richie Williams, Joan Burt and Amanda Hole (Old Post Ladies and Edmondes 'C').

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome. For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com; up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

The Cowbridge under-11s push Pentyrch all the way

THIS was an excellent game of rugby played between two sides whose philosophy is to play a running game.

Previous games between Cowbridge under-11s and Pentyrch have proved to be entertaining and this one proved no different.

Cowbridge took an early lead as Ruben Davies cut a lovely angle through the Pentyrch defence to run in from distance.

This was cancelled out by the visitors with a try of their own before some excellent handling and offloading saw second row Rhys Ford score in the corner for Cowbridge.

The home side extended their lead when, from a penalty close to the opposition line, Alfie Rees barged over after running on to a short pass.

The first 20 minutes ended with Pentyrch on top and scoring two well-worked tries with flowing moments to leave an evenly-balanced period all square at three tries apiece.

The second period was another evenly-fought affair with excellent rugby on show. Fly-half Will Evans raced away on a looping run which saw him outstrip the defence to score in the corner.

Pentyrch responded to bring the scores level again before Ruben Davies once again crossed the line following a fine jinking run.

The visitors once again levelled the scores following some lovely handling rugby to make it five tries each.

The last period started well for Cowbridge as winger Finley Sullivan sprinted away to score a fine individual try. However, as the period wore on, the visitors started to dominate possession and pressure built on the home side.

With some very good execution, Pentyrch ran in three tries as the home defence finally cracked to win the match eight tries to six.

Despite the defeat, this was a fine performance from Cowbridge against a quality side with some lovely handling and good offloading out of the tackle. This will have pleased the coaches as this is something which was worked on in training in the week.

Squad: Tom Brennan, Alfie Rees, Will Harris, Iolo Davies, Ethan Francis, Archie Lloyd, Ifor Rees, Lewys Robins, Akka Guwy, Rhys Pritchard, Sebastian Johns-Powell, Will Evans, Harry Treharne, Rhys Ford, Luke Treadwell, Finlay Ball, Ben Hardy, Will Ryan, Rhydian Wells, Ruben Davies, Sam Payne and Finlay Sullivan.

MF

Club's records are broken at Windmill Lane!

LLANTWIT MAJOR FC hosted Cardiff Grange Harlequins in a Welsh League fixture at their Windmill Lane ground on Saturday, in one of only three matches played that day, with most games postponed following a week of foul weather.

The Major kicked off into the very strong wind and it was that wind which made it difficult to play decent football all afternoon.

However, the Major had several good chances in the first half. Stewart Lindsay had what looked a perfectly good goal disallowed for offside but Max Morgan, playing on his own up front, managed to give the Major a first half lead when tapping in from close range as the visitors' goalkeeper failed to hold a powerful shot from Lee Jones.

The Major came out for the second half and played some good football with the wind behind them and increased their goal tally, scoring six times with the visitors just managing one goal in reply.

Max Morgan scored two, Gethin Jennings one and Stewart Lindsay, the club's all-time leading scorer, bagged a hat-trick to take his tally past the 200 mark and up to 201 goals.

That wasn't the only record of the day, as Andy Shaw, the club veteran, and playing as well as ever in the left back position, made his 461st appearance, taking him past the long-held club record of the current club president, Dave Price.

After the game, Andy was presented with a reward for his record-breaking achievement by the club president.

Team: Whitelam, Shaw, Gould, Llewelyn, Faux, Lindsay, L James, Davies, Jones, D James, Morgan; Substitutes: Jennings, Lansdown, Rees, Harman, Bevan.

The club's next fixture is away against Cardiff Corinthians at Radyr on January 17.

PL

Local churches together

THE Churches of Barry (a group that consists of a number of local Christian denominations) invite all for an evening of prayer to coincide with the start of the week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Britain and Ireland.

This takes place this Sunday, January 18, 6pm, at Crossway Methodist Church, Court Road/Crossways Street, Barry, led by Rev Phil Challis and Rev Pete Taylor.

For more information, contact Rev Pete Taylor on 01446 406262 or revpete@live.co.uk.

The regular Messy Church (for children of primary school age) takes place at Crossway on Monday, January 19, from 3.30pm.

Contact Deacon Samantha Taylor on 01446 406262 or deaconsam@live.co.uk.

BARRY UNDER-11s IMPRESS

ON Sunday, Barry RFC under-11s played their first fixture of 2015 at home against Llandaff North under-11s.

The wind was extremely powerful but that didn't stop the team, and within a minute of the whistle Barry kicked into the half and Phillips scored the first try.

Bannister powered through, gaining Barry ground, and he scored their second try. Llandaff then scored but in the second half Barry scored plenty of tries, with each player supporting each other – hopefully, this seems to be a turning point for the Barry under-11s.

There were positive comments from parents and spectators alike, and Barry's coaches couldn't choose the man of the match as it was a team effort by all.

Coaches Gavyn Elsworth, Simon Cox and Rachel Baron were so pleased with the effort and courage shown.

Final score Barry 50, Llandaff North 10; try scorers: Phillips, Williams, Cox, Baron, Lewis.

Team: E Baron, W Lewis, B Lewis, E Bear, B Phillips, M Bannister, J Borge, J Cox, L Owen, T Carter, K Elsworth, C Williams, L Norman.

The management would like to thank the parents for their continued support.

Barry under-11s train every Thursday, 6pm-7pm, and Sundays 10am (depending on games); we are always welcoming new players who are in year-6 of school – for any further information please contact 07889742153.

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At Securahome, we act as project manager on every new conservatory or orangery build and frequently deal with extensions that require permissions. In our experience it pays to allow at least 10 weeks for authority planning permission, with sewer agreements often involving a similar timescale.

When it comes to design, there are plenty of options to consider. Once you've spoken to a conservatory or orangery specialist,allow time to consider the layout and how you will use your new room as well as those all-important design features, before formal plans are drawn up and submitted.

This is your home, so it is important that everything is perfect.

In gardening terms,to ensure that you are sitting back in your new room when there's blossom on the trees, it makes good sense to set

MENTER IAITH BRO MORGANNWG

Angharad

Angharad.

WEL, dyna ni am flwyddyn arall: ar ôl yr holl brysurdeb, y prynu, y lapio, yr addurno, y cyngherddau, y coginio a – phew! – o'r diwedd – yr ymlacio – bellach mae'r cyfan ar ben ac mae'n flwyddyn newydd eto.

Mae'r Nadolig yn gyfuniad rhyfedd o gyfnod mwyaf poenus y flwyddyn yn llawn 'stress' rhyfeddol wrth ruthro o un lle i'r llall ac ar y llaw arall yn llawn o brofiadau hyfryta'r flwyddyn hefyd. Eleni cefais y fraint o gyflwyno noson garolau yn yr Eglwys Gadeiriol yn Llandaf ar ran elusen NSPCC; cefais modd i fyw wrth wrando ar Gôr Heol y March a Chôr Caerdydd yn Eglwys y Santes Fair yn yr Eglwys Newydd er budd Tenovus, ac roedd cyngerdd Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg (lle mae'r ddwy ferch yn ddisgyblion) yng nghapel Tabernacl y Barri unwaith eto eleni yn bleser pur ac yn gyfle i rieni blinedig gael ymfalchio'n dawel yng ngwaith eu plant yng nghanol yr holl firi.

Ond wrth gwrs, fel gŵyr trigolion y Bontfaen, mae'r Nadolig yn dechrau go iawn ar benwythnos parêd y ceirw. Eleni tyrrodd mwy o bobl nag erioed i'r dre, yn eu miloedd, i fwynhau taith Sion Corn a gweld y corachod lliwgar a'u bochau cochion yn ei helpu ar ei siwrne faith, (a thri ohonynt yn edrych yn rhyfeddol o debyg i fy nghyd gyflwynydd ar *Heno* Rhodri Owen a'i wraig Lucy a'u mab Gabs). Dyma ddiwrnod sy'n arddangos y Bontfaen ar ei orau gyda'i siopau bach unigryw a'r goleuadau llachar ar y coed Nadolig yn creu'r awyrgylch brydferthaf ac mae un ymdeimlad pwysig o falchder ar y diwrnod yma y gellir ei gwmpasu mewn un gair – cymuned.

Nid pawb ohonom sydd â'r amser na'r egni i fod yn gorachod Sion Corn ond mae'r rheiny sy'n rhoi o'u horiau prin hefyd yn cynnig rhodd sy'n llawer mwy gwerthfawr na'r un anrheg mewn papur sgleiniog. Mae nhw'n creu cymuned – ac yn y byd cythryblus sydd ohoni'r dyddie yma, dyna air sy'n bwysicach nag y bu erioed. Er, dyma chi dri gair holl bwysig arall hefyd ar ddechrau 2015 – Blwyddyn Newydd Dda!

Gigs Bach Y Fro

CAFWYD noson lwyddiannus tu hwnt yn lansiad 'Gigs Bach y Fro' ddiwedd mis Hydref, gyda gig yng nghwmni Al Lewis a Kizzy Crawford.

Roedd y Windsor Arms yn orlawn, gyda 90 wedi mynychu, a'r tocynnau i gyd wedi'u gwerthu o flaen llaw! Dyma oedd y digwyddiad cyntaf mewn cyfres o nosweithiau celfyddydol Cymraeg fydd yn cael eu cynnal o gwmpas Bro Morgannwg dros y flwyddyn nesaf.

Ychwanegwyd elfennau ieuenctid at rhaglen Gigs Bach y Fro yn dilyn derbyn grant o Gronfa Bwrw Mlaen Llywodraeth Cymru, ac fe gynhaliwyd gig 16+ yng Nghlwb Rygbi'r Barri ar y dydd Sadwrn cyn y Nadolig.

Breichiau Hir, band o Gaerdydd, oedd yn agor y noson, ac yna Candelas, sef un o fandiau Gorwelion y llynedd. Roedd Candelas yn lansio eu hail albwm ('Bodoli'n Ddistaw') yn gynharach yr wythnos honno hefyd, a braf oedd eu cael nhw i lawr o Lanuwchllyn i Fro Morgannwg i berfformio am y tro cyntaf ers Eisteddfod Genedlaethol 2012.

Profodd y noson hon hefyd yn un llwyddiannus, gyda chynulleidfa o bobl ifanc o Fro Morgannwg a'r cyffuniau wedi mwynhau cymdeithasu a chael y cyfle i wrando ar fandiau cyfoes Cymraeg yn eu hardal lleol.

Caiff y prosiect ei drefnu mewn partneriaeth rhwng Menter Bro Morgannwg a Chlwb Ifor Bach, dan nawdd Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru a Llywodraeth Cymru. Cydnabyddir hefyd gefnogaeth BOOM Pictures Cymru, Cyngor Tref y Barri, Cyngor Tref Penarth a Chyngor Cymunedol Dinas Powys.

E-chlysur

MAE Menter Bro Morgannwg yn darparu gwasanaeth e-bost sy'n hyrwyddo gweithgareddau a digwyddiadau cymdeithasol trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg i blant, pobl ifanc ac oedolion ym Mro Morgannwg – ee. gigs, gweithgareddau i'r teulu, gwersi nofio i blant, cyrsiau hamdden i oedolion...

Gallwch gofrestru i dderbyn y gwasanaeth E-chlysur rhad ac am ddim yma ar ein gwefan: www.menterbromorgannwg.org.

Neu cysylltwch â ni: ffion@menterbromorgannwg.org / (029) 20689888.

MYFYRIWR O'R BONTFAEN YN LLYWYDD AR YR URDD

LONGY FARCHIAD AU mawr i Rhun Dafydd sydd newydd ddechrau ar ei dymor fel Llywydd Urdd Gobaith Cymru.

Daw yn wreiddiol o'r Bontfaen, yn gyn-ddisgybl Ysgol Iolo Morganwg ac Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg, ac ef yw Llywydd ieuengaf yr Urdd.

Mae Rhun yn fyfyriwr ym Mhrifysgol Aberystwyth ar hyn o bryd, yn astudio Hanes Cymru a Daearyddiaeth Dynol, ac mae hefyd yn aelod blaenllaw o fforwm ieuenctid Ceredigion a Bwrdd Syr IfanC, sef fforwm ieuenctid genedlaethol yr Urdd.

Ond mae ei gysylltiadau cyntaf â'r Urdd yn tarddu yn ôl i brofiadau ei blentyndod – bu'n aelod o'r Urdd ers pan oedd yn yr ysgol gynradd, ac mae wedi gwirfoddoli'n gyson ers pan oedd ym mlwyddyn 11 Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg.

Ers hynny, mae wedi bod ar daith flynyddol yr Urdd i Batagonia, wedi gwirfoddoli ar daith i Disneyland Paris, swogio ar gyrsiau ail-iaith yn y gwersylloedd, yn helpu yn gyson yn yr eisteddfodau cylch a sir ac mewn digwyddiadau lleol fel y gala nofio.

Meddai Rhun: "Mi ges i dipyn o sypreis pan ofynnwyd i mi nôl yn

2013 os byddwn yn fodlon bod yn Lywydd i'r Urdd gan fy mod wastad wedi meddwl mai pobl hŷn oedd yn cael gwahodd i fod yn Lywydd.

"Mae'r Llywyddion yn cael eu dewis fesul tri, felly gan mai fi yw'r olaf o'r tri, dwi wedi bod yn disgwyl dwy flynedd i fod yn Lywydd!

"Yn ystod fy nhymor fel Llywydd fe hoffwn edrych ar yr ochr ddyngarol o waith yr Urdd, a gobeithio cynnig gwelliannau ac awgrymiadau o ran sut gellir ei ehangu a'i wneud yn dipyn mwy o beth. Roedd hon yn elfen bwysig fewn yr Urdd yn nyddiau Syr Ifan a hoffwn i ei ddatblygu ymhellach."

Yn ôl Efa Gruffudd Jones, Prif Weithredwr yr Urdd: "Mae Rhun wedi bod yn weithgar iawn gyda'r Urdd ers blynyddoedd ac yn aelod gwerthfawr o Fwrdd Syr IfanC. Mae ganddo syniadau cyffrous ac rwyf yn edrych ymlaen i gydweithio gydag ef yn ystod ei dymor fel Llywydd."

Ysgol Gyfun Y Bontfaen

MAE hi wedi bod yn dymor prysur i'r Adran Gymraeg yn Ysgol Gyfun Y Bontfaen. Mwynheuodd disgyblion blwyddyn 7 wythnos penigamp yn Llangrannog ym mis Rhagfyr ac aeth disgyblion blynyddoedd 9 a 10 am benwythnos i Lan-Llyn ym mis Tachwedd a chael modd i fyw.

Mae'r disgyblion Lefel A hefyd wedi bod yn brysur. Aeth disgyblion BI 12 a 13 i'r theatr i wylio'r ddrama SXTO gan gwmni Theatr Arad Goch. Dyma adroddiad gan Rebecca Walsh, o flwyddyn 12:

"Dydd Iau diwethaf, aethon ni i weld y ddrama 'SXTO' yn Ysgol Gyfun Garth Olwg. Roedd y ddrama i ddangos peryglon defnyddio ffonau symudol, a rhybuddio pobl ifanc bod ffonau symudol yn gallu achosi problemau. Yn fy marn i, mwynheuais i'r ddrama achos roedd e'n ddiddorol iawn.

"Y prif gymeriadau oedd Lowri, Meic, Jen a Gav. Roedd y stori yn dilyn bywyd Lowri. Roedd hi wedi bod yn secstio Meic, ond gwerthodd e ei ffôn i Gav, felly yn fuan wedyn, gwelodd pawb y lluniau. Ar ddiwedd y ddrama, roedd Lowri ar do'r ysgol. Roedd hi eisiau neidio, a ceisiodd Meic, Jen a Gav ei stopio hi."

Yn ogystal, aeth disgyblion blwyddyn 12 i'r Ysgwrn i weld cartref Hedd Wyn a chlywed ei hanes gan aelod o'r teulu, Gerald. Dywedodd Jamie Ferguson o flwyddyn 12:

"Es i heddiw i gartref Hedd Wyn, 'Yr Ysgwrn'. Mwynheuais i weld y Gadair Ddu – cadair yr Eisteddfod enillodd Hedd Wyn ar ol marw yn y rhyfel. Hefyd hoffais i weld y gegin fach a'r parlwr lle roedd teulu Hedd Wyn wedi cadw'r cadeiriau Eisteddfodol. Mae 'Yr Ysgwrn' yn le hyfryd ac arbennig iawn."

Gallwch chi weld lluniau o daith blwyddyn 7 yn www.llangrannog.blogspot.co.uk. Ewch i www.cymraegybontfaen.blogspot.co.uk neu dilynwch drydar yr adran @cymraegccs am y newyddion diweddaraf gan yr adran.

Cymdeithas Cymrodorion Y Barri

Cefndir

SEFYDLWYD y Gymdeithas ar ddydd Gŵyl Dewi 1906, pan oedd y Barri yn dref oedd yn tyfu'n gyflym.

Mae nifer o enwogion y genedl wedi bod yn aelodau ohoni dros y blynyddoedd – gan gynnwys Silyn Roberts, Edgar Jones, R Williams Parry, Gwenallt, Kate Roberts, WR Evans, Norah Isaac a llawer mwy – pan oedden nhw'n athrawon yn y dref neu'n darlithio yn y coleg. Ar hyn o bryd, Islwyn Jones ydyw un o'n hoelion wyth ac mae'r cyfarfodydd yn hwyliog a chymdeithasol.

Mae'r gymdeithas yn cyfarfod ar y trydydd nos Fawrth o bob mis am 7.15 yn Festri Tabernacl. Dewch i ymuno gyda ni – mae yna groeso cynnes.

Dathlu 150 Mlwyddiant y Wladfa Gymreig

YM 1865, glaniodd 152 o Gymry dewr a phybyr ar lannau moel a digysur Patagonia yn yr Ariannin, De America, â'u bryd ar sefydlu Gwladfa Gymreig fyddai'n parchu'r iaith, ei phobl a'u crefydd.

Maen nhw yn o o hyd – disgynyddion y dewrion hynny yn dal i addoli yn 'yr hen iaith', i addysgu'r plant ac i gadw cysylltiad gref â ni yma yn 'yr hen wlad'. Yn 2015 byddwn yn dathlu 150 mlwyddiant sefydlu'r Wladfa Gymreig yma ac ym Mhatagonia.

Ac ym mis Ionawr bydd Cymrodorion y Barri yn dathlu'r achlysur yng nghwmni'r Athro E Wyn James pan fydd yn trafod gwaith a bywyd un o lenorion amlycaf Patagonia – Eluned Morgan, gwraig amryddawn a chanddi gysylltiadau teuluol â'r Barri. Dewch i ymuno â ni nos Fawrth Ionawr 20fed am 7.15yh. Croeso i bawb.

Cysylltu

RHOWCH yn eich dyddiadur – Cinio Gŵyl Dewi, Nos Wener, Chwefror 27 yng Nghastell Wenfô.

Gŵr Gwadd – Aled Gwyn.

Cysylltwch gyda Rhoswen Deiniol, Llywydd – rhoswend@hotmail.co.uk; neu Eric Thomas, Ysgrifennydd – eric.t@ntlworld.com; neu Eiry Palfrey – eirypalfrey@yahoo.co.uk.

Who wants to build what, and where in the Vale of Glamorgan?

Ms Scarrott – **3 Grove Terrace, Penarth** – Demolition of existing single and two storey rear annexes; construction of two storey rear extension.
Brook Farm Developments – **Land adjacent to Brook Farm, Llanmaes** – Proposed erection of five local needs houses and five four-bed houses, an access cul de sac, two allotments, a village pond in a public open space.
Ms Pretty Sagoo – **11 Beach Road, Penarth** – Replace existing roof slates to main house.
Glamorgan Anglers Club Ltd – **Llantrithyd Lake, Treguff Farm, Llantrithyd** – The construction of a stone access track from existing car park to the lake side, and construction of a new six-space car park adjacent to lake side.
Mr Matthew Tucker – **67 Lavernock Road, Penarth** – The construction of a single-storey extension to the rear of the property and a single garage to the side.
OpenGenius Ltd – **TecMarina (Former MS House), Terra Nova Way, Penarth Marina** – External alterations to building comprising new apertures and repositioning of main entrance and associated canopy.
Mr Martin Walter – **Penrhos, Llysworney** – Two-storey side extension.
Co-Operative Food Group – **Boverton Road, Llantwit Major** – Sign 1) replace existing trough light on existing fascia with new LEDs trough light; Sign 2) replace existing trough light on existing fascia with new LEDs trough light; Sign 3) Additional vinyl 'opening hours' text to be applied to existing fascia fascia. Replace existing trough light on existing fascia with new LEDs trough light.
David Wilson Homes – **Land off St Brides Road, Wick** – Change of use of agricultural land to residential development (C3) including the development of 124 residential dwellings, public open space, landscaping, highway improvements and associated engineering works.
Mr Michael Brinkard – **Windmill Industrial Estate, Wimbourne Road, Barry**– Planning application in respect of two additional units within an existing development at Windmill Industrial Estate: original application no. 05/01112/FUL.
Mrs Melidna Barree – **4 Beryl Place, Barry** – Erection of a single-storey front and side extension with front facing door and windows to provide front porch and side utility room.
Mr Paul Thomas – **Bryn Sych Farm, Morfa Lane, Llantwit Major** – Use of dwelling as care home, falling within Class C3.
Ms Paula Warren – **Site at Tresilian Wood, Dimlands Road, St Donats, Llantwit Major** – Proposed five holiday lodges and upgrade of campsite.
Mrs April Dawn Keeble – **7 Esplanade Building, Friars Road, Barry Island** – Change of use from A1 to mixed use A1/A3 shop and coffee shop, with associated work including layout changes within the site.
Mr Alan Dunn – **PADS Trailers Ltd, Sully Moors Road, Sully** – Change of use from B2 general industrial to caravan sale area.
Mr Joe Saxton – **29 Tair Onen, St Hilary** – Single-storey extension to the rear of property.
Mr Lance Carver – **Hen Goleg Resource Centre, College Fields Close, Barry** – Repairs and replacement works to clock tower, replacement of lighting protection, rooflights, glazing. Removal of ventilation duct, new access ladder. Replacement of rainwater goods. Repair and repaint ventilation turrets. Repair entrance door. New handrails, tactile paving.
Mr Ian Mead – **Maes Glas, Broadway, Llanblethian, Cowbridge** – Convert and extend garage into a granny annexe.
Aneurin Evans Chemist Limited – **41 and 42 High Street, Barry** – Proposed conversion of retail unit to four dwellings.
Mrs Deborah Loth – **15 Stanton Way, Penarth** – Single-storey rear extension to increase living space.
Mr Darren Williams – land adjacent to Plymouth House, West Street, Llantwit Major – Works to existing boundary wall with Plymouth House to incorporate attachment of proposed new dwelling.
Connections Design – **Barain, 10 St Quentin's Close, Llanblethian, Cowbridge** – Rebuild of bay window, porch, alterations to fenestration and part rendered facade upgrade.
Mrs Amy Macpherson – **33 Pontyprid Road, Barry** – Proposed double-storey side and rear domestic extension.
Mr and Mrs G Evans – **Bute House, Grove Place, Penarth** – Alterations and extension to existing dwelling. Conversion of existing dwelling. Conversion of existing outbuildings to ancillary residential accommodation.
Mrs Deborah Furnish – **4 Cwrt Dyfed, Barry** – Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension relating to 2014/01158/FUL.
Mr and Mrs Jeffrey Green – **Upper Barn, Southra, Dinas Powys** – Removing one small window enlarging the opening to accommodate glass sliding door. Move front door to swap with adjacent window.
Mr R James – **The Grange, Trepit Road, Wick, Cowbridge** – Conversion of barn and outbuilding into domestic dwelling.
McColl's Retail Group Limited – **The Parade, Castle Drive, Dinas Powys** – Construction of external accessible ramp.
Mr and Mrs Graham Sillett – **43 Whitmore Park Drive, Barry** – Conversion of garage to habitable room.
Mr David Walker – **Badgers Brook Rise, Ystradowen** – Residential development, comprising the erection of 40 dwellings and garages and the construction of roads, footways, footpath and cycleway, drainage and services, landscaping, pumping station and all associated building and engineering operations at land off Badgers Brook Rise, Ystradowen, Cowbridge.
Pets at Home Limited – **Waterfront Retail Park, Heol Ceiniog, Barry** – New retail signage.
Gareth Weekes – **Hillbrow, Colhugh Street, Llantwit Major** – T1 reduce branches over neighbours garden by up 1m to Sycamore; T23 remove/reduce suckers to Ash tree; T3 reduce weight in upper crown to Field Maple; T4 reduce and shape.
McDonalds Restaurant Limited – **Valegate Retail Park, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff** – Minor amendment to planning application 2014/01043/FUL to allow the retention of the installation of goal post height restrictor.
Mr Steve Burt – **Abernant, St Athan Road, St Mary Church** – First floor extension.
Mr Rhys Benyon – **30 St Ambrose Close, Dinas Powys** – Single storey rear extension and new front porch.
Mr and Mrs Steven Lewis – **The Links, off Pen y Lan Road, Aberthin** – Demolition of bungalows and attached garage.
Mrs Lisa Gates – **Maendy Isaf, lane junction A4222 at Maendy to Trerhyngyll** – Proposed first floor side extension, single storey rear extension and detached outbuilding.
Mr and Mrs Stephen Short – **Forty Farm, St Brides Road, St Brides super Ely** – Demolition of existing farmhouse and farm buildings.
Mr Aaron Morgan – **131 Holton Road, Barry** – New corporate image fascia and projecting sign.
Mr Gareth Jones – **Former ITV Studio, Porth Road, Culverhouse Cross** – Removal of conditions relating to Code For Sustainable Homes 17, 18 and 19 of application 2013/01152/OUT.
Taylor Wimpey – **Land south of the railway line, Trem Echni, Rhoose Point, Rhoose** – Variation of Condition 11 of planning permission 2012/00937/FUL.
Mr Ian Nickels – **85 Glebe Street, Penarth** – Lawful development certificate for two existing flats.
Mr Bevan – **2 Rutland Close, Barry** – Erect single storey tiled roof extension to side elevation.
Mrs Hold – **The Bower House, Pen y Lan, Cowbridge** – Crown lift Beech, removing a three inch diameter branches.
Mr Richard Penn – **1 Howards End, Craven Walk, Penarth** – Extensions and alterations to dwelling, including ground floor extension and roof dormers.
Mr Matthew Williams – **23a Whitewell Drive, Llantwit Major** – Demolish existing garage, construct extension to rear/side of dwelling, construct porch to front of dwelling.
Mr and Mrs Peter Lewis – **Easter Barn, Moulton** – To construct new detached garage.
Mr Lewis Edmunds – **5 Church Road, Barry** – Change of use for an unoccupied A1 commercial shop to C3 residential dwelling and convert an unoccupied C3 second and third floor maisonette into two C3 residential dwellings.
Mrs Joanne Davies –**34 Coleridge Avenue, Penarth** – Single storey rear extension.
Mr Karl Moller – **2 Solent Road, Barry** – Proposed side extension to form a new cloak room and entrance hall.
Redrow Homes South Wales – **North West Cardiff** – Outline planning application with all matters reserved apart from strategic access junctions for residential-led mixed use development, to be developed in phases.
Mr Richard Price – **Primrose Cottage, Turkey Street, Llantwit Major** – Single storey and two storey extensions to existing cottage and alterations to existing fenestration. Creation of new vehicular/pedestrian access.
Ludlow Street Investment Corp – **88 Windsor Road, Penarth** – Application for certificate of lawfulness for the proposed retail use (A1) of the site.
Mr Robert Harry – **Land between Pop Hill and Cross Common Road, Dinas Powys** – To provide dry track during autumn/winter months for tractors and trailers. Land to be used for cattle and May crops.
Mrs Freda Harries – **2 Lake Hill Drive, Cowbridge** – Single storey rear extension and two storey front extension.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL • CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Application(s) of General Interest/
Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2014/01441/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed 5 no. holiday lodges and upgrade of campsite to include extension of existing reception building to provide five star facilities and 2 no. WC and shower units
Location:/Lleoliad: Site at Tresilian Wood, Dimlands Road, St. Donats, Llantwit Major

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2014/01483/RES
Proposal:/Cynnig: Residential development, comprising the erection of 40 dwellings and garages and the construction of roads, footways, footpath and cycleway, drainage and services, landscaping, pumping station and all associated building and engineering operations at Land off Badgers Brook Rise, Ystradowen, Cowbridge
Location:/Lleoliad: Badgers Brook Rise, Ystradowen

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/00016/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Residential development for 21 dwellings
Location:/Lleoliad: Land to the South of Craig Yr Eos Avenue, Ogmore by Sea

May affect a Public Right of Way/
Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2014/01263/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: The construction of a stone access track from existing car park to the lake side, and construction of a new 6 no. space car park adjacent to lake side
Location:/Lleoliad: Llantrithyd Lake, Treguff Farm, Llantrithyd

Departure from Development Plan/
Gwyro o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2014/01505/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Detailed Permission for the construction of a link road connecting Cowbridge bypass with Llantwit Major including footpaths/cycleways landscaping and associated engineering works. Outline permission with all matters reserved other than access for a mixed use residential led development
Location:/Lleoliad: Land at North West Cowbridge

Application(s) with Environmental Statement/
Cais (au) gyda Datganiad Amgylcheddol

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 8

Proposed development at Land at North West Cowbridge.

I give notice that Commercial Estates Group and Mr. J.G.R. Homfray, is applying to The Vale of Glamorgan Council for Planning Permission to Detailed Permission for the construction of a link road connecting Cowbridge bypass with Llantwit Major including footpaths/cycleways landscaping and associated engineering works. Outline permission with all matters reserved other than access for a mixed use residential led development .

The proposal has been submitted with an environmental statement which can be inspected at the address given below. Members of the public may obtain electronic copies of the Environmental Statement and Non-Technical Summary at a charge of £20.00 from Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners Helmont House, Churchill Way, Cardiff. CF10 2HE, telephone no. 02920 435880, so long as stocks last.

Members of the public may inspect copies of:

- The application.
- The plans.
- The environmental statement.
- Other documents submitted with the application.

at the address given below during all reasonable hours until 5 February, 2015.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below by 5 February 2015 quoting reference 2014/01505/OUT.

HYSBYSIAD O DAN ERTHYGL 8

Datblygiad arfaethedig yn Land at North West Cowbridge

Hysbysir trwy hyn Commercial Estates Group and Mr. J.G.R. Homfray, n gwneud cais i Gyngor Bro Morgannwg am Ganiatâd Cynllunio ar gyfe Detailed Permission for the construction of a link road connecting Cowbridge bypass with Llantwit Major including footpaths/cycleways landscaping and associated engineering works. Outline permission with all matters reserved other than access for a mixed use residential led development

Cafodd y cynnig ei gyflwyno gyda datganiad amgylcheddol sydd ar gael i'w ddarllen yn y cyfeiriad isod. Caiff aelodau o'r cyhoedd brynu copïau electronig o'r Datganiad Amgylcheddol a'r Crynodeb Annhechnegol am £20.00 oddi wrth/o Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners Helmont House, Churchill Way, Cardiff. CF10 2HE, telephone no. 02920 435880, tra bydd y stoc ar gael.

Caiff aelodau o'r cyhoedd hefyd ddarllen copïau o'r:

- cais;
- cynlluniau;
- datganiad amgylcheddol;
- dogfennau eraill a gyflwynwyd gyda'r cais,

yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau rhesymau tan 5 February, 2015.

Dylai unrhyw un sydd am wneud sylwadau ar y cais ysgrifennu at Bennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y dudalen ar waelod y dudalen) erbyn 5 February 2015 an ddyfynnu'r cyfeirnod 2014/01505/OUT.

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Dated / Dyddiedig: 15 January, 2015

M. Goldsworthy
Operational Manager Development & Building Control,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

Beth Margetson will leave a 'gaping hole' in so many lives

LAST week, The GEM had the sad task of reporting the death of Beth Margetson of Porthcawl – who lost her fight against cancer.

Beth's remarkable story has been chronicled in this newspaper by Caroline Sarll, who has written the following tribute to her "inspiring, uplifting" friend.

by CAROLINE SARLL

THIS is an article I never wanted to write – and one which all of us who knew big-hearted, beautiful, benevolent, brave and, yes, battle-worn Beth Margetson, never wanted to read.

Sadly, after two and half years of fighting – to conquer her metastatic breast cancer and to achieve equity for all patients in Wales – this loving mother, wife and daughter, this feisty former midwife, qualified nurse, health visitor and lecturer, this chapel deacon, patriot (and Welsh speaker), this tireless campaigner and accomplished orator, finally passed away on January 6.

Beth has left a gaping hole.

Not only in the lives of all who met her, but first and foremost, in the lives of her immediate family: husband Chris, 16-year-old daughter, Ffion and her 87-year-old father, Peter, for whom Beth cared even in the difficult and draining last few weeks.

She lived her life with such passion, energy and compassion, that it is hard to believe that Beth is no longer with us. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to Beth's devoted family and to all who knew and loved her.

It is nothing less than fitting that Beth's lasting legacy is a daughter who has inherited her mother's fighting spirit. As Ffion said in an extraordinary live interview on BBC Radio Wales, the day after Beth's death, "My mother may be dead. But she will never, ever be gone".

Ffion, who fought every step of the way with her beloved mother, has pledged to keep up the fight for justice. And I have every reason to believe that she will do just that, such was the inspiration she drew from her truly exceptional mother, who was deemed exactly the opposite by her local Health Board: not "exceptional enough" to receive a life-extending drug, Afinitor.

In the wake of David Cameron's Offa's Dyke speech last week ("the line between life and death"), pre-election posturing at its best, it is nevertheless clear that Beth was a trailblazer, highlighting our small nation's unjust deficiencies, including our lack of a Cancer Drugs Fund, in a personal and impassioned way and pre-empting the furore that is sure to unfold over the coming months. The mark of a true visionary.

How many of us can say we have made a difference in our lives? Beth Margetson did. From the day her mother tied her in her pram to Llwynypia hospital railings, in a fight against its closure, Beth's life was mapped out for her as a mould breaker.

Even though Beth died last week, the almost daily texts I received from her up until Christmas Day, demonstrated that she never "gave in" to the cancer. It simply overtook her – but she never, ever gave up fighting, never displayed an ounce of self-pity and, crucially, never gave up hope. Beth had so much that she wanted to live for – "I want to see Ffion go to university, to see her get married and have babies"– and in her trademark, tongue-in-cheek style "even get divorced!".

Beth, with nothing to lose and everything to gain, spoke out, loudly, clearly, articulately, fearlessly – and, most importantly, from the heart.

Inspired, the people of Porthcawl and beyond took up her cause: Bridgend College, where she taught Health and Social Care, her local church, Tabernacl in Fenton Place, Balkwill's the Chemist, the Hi-Tide (and countless pubs: forgive me for not mentioning you all), local businesses such as the Tattoo Parlour (Beth delivered one of the owner's children) and many, many more, individuals and institutions alike.

The last 16 months, from the day Beth turned up on my doorstep in September 2013, to tell me she had been refused the drug and to ask me to help, have been a rollercoaster ride, full of downs (the regular updates from Beth that her tumour markers had risen, or that the many rounds of chemo – she endured six – had made her terribly ill), but there were also so many "ups".

There was the jaw-droppingly frank and raw interview on BBC Radio Wales with Jason Mohammad in September 2013, the march on the Senedd ("We made sure we marched two abreast!"), the fundraising concert in the Hi-Tide, compered by Roy Noble and Owen Money and the many other fundraising events in and around Porthcawl, which Beth attended and spoke at, no matter how unwell she was feeling.

She impressed everyone she met, such was her charisma and her passion to stay alive. During the Radio Wales tribute last week, Jason Mohammad asked me if I was surprised that Beth had, so quickly, become such a public figure.

My answer? Not in the least. Blessed with the gift of rhetoric, her light shone even brighter with an audience in front of her. She had even joked in the car on the way home from her first BBC interview "That Jason had better watch out. I liked that microphone. I'll be after his job now, just wait and see!"

Beth had also talked about becoming a politician and it is our loss that this natural wordsmith, who could turn a statistic into a dream soundbite, with her pithy and intelligent observations and disarming (but oh, so welcome) honesty, will never fulfil that hope. But it is the loss of Beth the person, Beth the devoted mother, wife, daughter, friend and colleague we will all mourn the most.

Her bravery and drive, combined with her endless kindness, garnered her widespread support – and vital funds. I can still hear the laughter rippling through the room in the Hi-Tide, as she talked of Dylan the dog almost getting hold of her "£100 a pop" tablets, the Afinitor, which the fundraising eventually allowed her to access. I can hear Ffion singing 'I Dreamed A Dream', her beautiful voice soaring through the air, with Beth watching rapt and proud, full of love and buoyed by the thought of a time "when men were kind" and "hopes were high".

I can see Miss Tina's girls, elegantly dancing to 'Slipping Through My Fingers', the poignant lyrics about a mother letting her daughter go, taking on an added resonance amidst Beth's plight.

I can hear, too, as the ongoing soundtrack to this week's grief, so palpable throughout the community, Beth raising all our spirits in her controversial trip to Hanover last June, where, ignoring the naysayers, she accessed adjuvant hyperthermia treatment, not available at all in the UK (except in some trials).

"I told the clinic staff I had made them some cacen!" she quipped one day. "I thought I was saying "cakes", but it turns out they thought I was giving them poo!" That was Beth the Constant Carer, always the altruist, giving, not taking, even in her greatest hour of need.

Beth Margetson pictured with Roy Noble and Owen Money.
Photograph by Malcolm Nugent.

Beth even cooked a Sunday dinner and cakes for my mother when I was away on holiday last summer, despite my protestations that it wasn't necessary. "Hush, now, Car. I'm going. I want to do it". You didn't argue with our Beth.

In Hanover, I was one of her many friends who flew out to support her and Ffion (Bev, Angela, Kay, Philippa, Linda) and was both humbled and uplifted by the experience. Humbled to see a still young woman (Beth turned 50 the day before she left) enduring the excruciating ordeal of being heated to over 40 degrees Celsius. Covered in foil, the sweat was dripping onto the bed.

Uplifted to witness her ongoing courage and defiance. "I'm visualising the cancer cells popping. I'm imagining I'm on a beach, soaking up the sun . I'm thinking Crete. All I need now is a sprig of thyme, and I'm like a Bernard Matthews turkey!".

Oh, Beth. How we are all going to miss your delicious, inimitable sense of humour. Oh, Beth. How we are all going to miss you.

Each and every one of us will have our own unique, personal memories to take with us into the future, to keep this remarkable woman alive in our hearts and souls: "It was like she was always wrapping her arms round you", "She always went the extra mile".

Although I knew of Beth as a child (she and her parents often cooked for and visited my elderly neighbours), I have only really got to know her in these last intense 16 months – and feel privileged to have had that opportunity.

Along with her bravery, I will remember that brilliant sense of humour, her unconditional kindness, the very special time in Germany ("Tell the taxi driver I want to buy SOSSpans, Car!") , the private audience with Carwyn Jones, the trips to the BBC (Beth gave an update last September on Radio Wales) and our very last outing together to Cowbridge, just weeks before she died, for a complimentary makeover in Fich and Ramous hairdressers.

Even then, just the day after receiving a blood transfusion, Beth donned one of her many stylish outfits, sported her famous "fabulous fuchsia" lipstick and arrived bearing chocolates, not only for the hairdressing staff, but also for the staff of this newspaper, to whom she was so grateful for their ongoing support.

Beth never took anyone for granted. She was always, always grateful and repaid kindnesses by the bucketload. The last text I received from her on Christmas Day, in which she said she would try and sit at the table and eat something with the family, encompassed that hallmark gratitude: "I am so blessed to have such good family and friends".

We, likewise, are so fortunate to have known you, Beth. You touched us deeply, and also touched – and galvanised – the whole nation. You taught us all that it's okay not to take "no" for an answer.

ABOVE: Beth pictured with a nurse in Germany, where she received hyperthermic treatment.

That it is worth fighting every step of the way to stay alive. That our family and friends are our most valued and treasured "life support". That giving reaps rewards. Given six months to live in the autumn of 2012, you far outlived that prognosis. You proved that it cannot be best practice to assess life expectancy, treatment accessibility and indeed, life itself, on the basis of tables, graphs and charts.

There's that old saying, "The candle that burns twice as bright burns half as long" and Beth, how well you epitomised that. I can hear you, again, in Germany, as you lay exhausted on the bed, still smiling and saying "I'm so tired, I could sleep on a chicken's lip!".

Now you can rest, Beth, free of pain and suffering. But your lasting legacy – in Ffion, Chris, Peter and your fierce fight against unfairness – will, like your light, shine on.

You ended your voicemail message on your mobile phone with an almost afterthought-style "It's Beth", as though the caller wouldn't know who you were.

As if, Mrs Margetson. There was no one quite like you. You were, indeed, exceptional.

Our thoughts and sympathy are with your family. Rest in peace now, Beth. **Nos da.x**

Beth Margetson's funeral is on Monday, January 19. A service at Tabernacl Chapel, Fenton Place, Porthcawl, at 12.30pm will be followed by interment in Porthcawl Cemetery at 2pm.

Family flowers only but donations to the Beth Margetson Foundation, which aims to help people whose loved ones are suffering from serious illness. Dress code: Bright clothing if desired.

Speaker evokes the magic of Venice

MEMBERS of Llantwit Major WI met twice in December, once at the monthly meeting (which was an enjoyable Christmas party) and secondly at the Link carol service in St Illtyds Church.

The January meeting was a chance to catch up with news of Christmas activities. During the business meeting members voted for the resolution they wished to go forward to the NFWI AGM.

The speaker for the evening was Pam Lewis, ably assisted by Cled Pam is noted for her photography and we were treated to views of Venice. The photographs of masks and costumes she showed us were amazing. After her talk her members were able to examine masks and photographs she had brought with her.

The winner of the competition for something about Venice was Eileen Tomkinson and the winner of bloom of the month, president Jean Swift.

The next meeting will be on February 5. Visitors and new members will find a friendly welcome

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NEW

White Farm, BARRY
Spacious four bedroom Persimmon built detached, living room, kitchen/diner, utility room, ensuite to master, detached garage, well presented. ER-C.
£244,950

NEW

Hinchsliff Avenue, BARRY
Semi detached, extended throughout. Main dwelling - 3 bedrooms, living room, dining room, kitchen, wc, cloakroom & family bathroom. Annex - utility room, bathroom, sitting room.
£179,000

NEW

Richard Street, BARRY
Mid terraced, through living room, two bedrooms, 1st floor bathroom, UPVC - GCH, town centre location.
£75,000

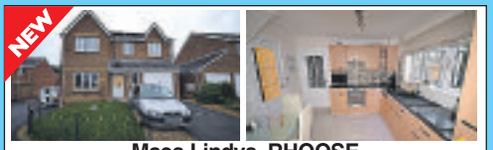
NEW

Broad Close, BARRY
Maintenance free, ground floor, living room, modern fitted kitchen, integrated appliances, two double bedrooms, sun terrace overlooking communal gardens, no chain. ER-D.
£114,950

NEW

The Rise, BARRY
Semi detached, placed on Barry Road, three bedrooms, living room, kitchen/diner, side access, no chain. ER-D.
£99,950

NEW



Maes Lindys, RHOOSE
Stunning modern detached Persimmon built 'Wenvoe' style, living room, dining room, conservatory, fitted kitchen, utility-integral garage, four bedrooms (ensuite), enclosed rear garden.
£239,950

NEW

Everard Street, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, through living room, fitted kitchen - integrated appliances, three bedrooms, family bathroom, enclosed low maintenance rear garden.
£129,950

NEW NO CHAIN

Greenacres, BARRY
Mid terraced, modern kitchen to front, breakfast bar, living room, modern bathroom, two bedrooms, UPVC DG - GCH via combi, no chain. ER-C.
£124,950

NEW

Oakfield Road, BARRY
Four bedroom semi detached, living/dining room, wc cloakroom, kitchen/breakfast room. 1st flr: 3 bedrooms - family bathroom. 2nd flr: Dorma bedroom, enclosed rear garden, long driveway /garage, no chain. ER-E.
£219,950

NEW PRICE NO CHAIN

Claude Road West, BARRY
Semi detached, living room, sitting room, open plan kitchen/diner, utility & WC, 3 bedrooms & family bathroom, attic conversion to regs providing fourth bedroom & ensuite shower room. ER-D.
£229,950

NEW PRICE

Paget Road, BARRY ISLAND
Contemporary, secure living, 1st floor apartment, open plan living/kitchen, views over cricket green, double bedroom, secure parking to rear, pin code entry system. ER-C.
£84,950

NEW PRICE

Glenbrook Drive, BARRY
Ground floor one bed apartment, quiet cul-de-sac, open plan lounge & kitchen, bathroom, designated parking, communal gardens. EPC-C.
£69,950

NEW

Dock View Road, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, original features throughout, 26ft living room, kitchen opening to dining room, three bedrooms, family bathroom, no chain - town centre location. ER-D.
£152,500

NEW PRICE

George Street, BARRY
Bay fronted, mid terraced traditional, two separate reception rooms, kitchen (needing upgrading), shower room (ground floor), three double bedrooms, enclosed low maintenance garden. ER-D.
£109,500

Courtlands, SULLY
No chain, well maintained, mid linked bungalow, one bedroom, living room, leisure facility included, 24hr concierge. ER-D.
£69,950

NO CHAIN

Jenner Road, BARRY
Garden apartment, ground floor, one bedroomed, kitchen/breakfast, family bathroom, garden to the front, level rear garden to rear, no chain. ER-D.
£97,950

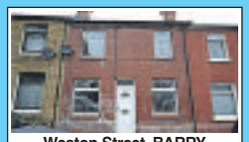
Richard Street, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, through living/dining room, replacement fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms, first floor bathroom, no chain. ER-D.
£107,000

Porthkerry Road, BARRY
Elevated mid terraced, living room, kitchen/diner, two bedrooms, informal hobby area to attic, elevated rear garden, no chain. ER-D.
£102,500

Dock View Road, BARRY
Semi detached, many original features, four bedrooms, three receptions, WC shower room, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden. ER-D
£139,950

Barry Road, BARRY
Edwardian mid terraced, three double bedrooms, two reception rooms, 18ft breakfast/kitchen, off road parking to rear via lane, town centre location, no chain. ER-D.
£135,000

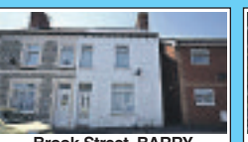
Queen Street, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, through living room, kitchen, two bedrooms, hobby area to attic, 1st floor bathroom, no chain, GCH via combi (not tested). EPC-D.
£95,000



Weston Street, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, double bay fronted, living/dining room. Replacement roof, re-wired, replastered, floors, ceilings, 2014 replacement central heating, ER-D.
£112,950

Barry Road, BARRY
End of terraced, three bedrooms, two reception rooms, 1st floor bathroom, offered with no chain. ER-D.
£79,950

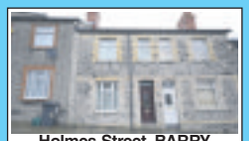
Evans Street, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, refurbished throughout, two bedrooms, through living room, modern fitted kitchen, luxury bathroom, rear garden. ER-D.
£112,950



Brook Street, BARRY
End of terraced traditional, double extension to rear, living/dining room, ground floor bathroom, ensuite shower room, enclosed rear garden, no chain. ER-D.
£119,950

Picton Road, RHOOSE
Modern end terrace, two bedrooms, lounge with log burner, kitchen, cul de sac position, 2 designated parking spaces, space to side to extend (subject to planning permission). ER-D.
£135,000

Fonmon Park Road, RHOOSE
Three bedroomed, link detached, living room/dining area, converted garage, cul de sac position, driveway, overlooking Vale. ER-C.
£159,950



Holmes Street, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, well presented, through living room, modern fitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom, three double bedrooms, enclosed rear garden, no chain, EPC waiting.
£90,000

Courtenay Road, BARRY
End of terraced, refurbished throughout, living room, sitting room, fitted kitchen. 1st flr: 3 bedrooms & fam bathroom. 2nd flr: 2 further bedrooms, side access, enclosed garden. ER-D.
£159,950

Teifi Drive, BARRY
Corner positioned, semi detached bungalow, 2 bedrooms, living room, shower room, driveway to rear, UPVC DG - GCH via combi, no chain. ER-C.
£164,950

Kingsland Crescent, BARRY
End of terrace, living room, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility room/wc cloakroom, conservatory, four bedrooms & 1st flr bathroom, stairs to hobby area in attic, tandem garage. ER-E.
£169,950

Canon Street, BARRY
End of terraced, traditional dwelling, living room, through dining room. 1st flr: 3 double bedrooms, bathroom. 2nd flr: further bedroom, patio, rear garden, garage. ER-E.
£174,950

Wenvoe Terrace, BARRY
3 bedroomed, end terraced traditional, through living/dining room, sea views from front, UPVC D/G & combi boiler, enclosed rear garden. ER-F.
£149,950

Porthkerry Road, BARRY
Spacious living, original features, 3 separate rec. rooms, 4 bedrooms, wc/shower room, utility room, sea views over Bristol Channel. ER-D.
£184,950

Jenner Road, BARRY
3 bedrooms, attic/hobby area with dorma window, refurbished, living room, open plan kitchen/diner, longer than average garden/garage. ER-E.
£179,950

Melyn Y Gors, BARRY
Modern detached, living through to dining room, 4 bedrooms, family bathroom & ensuite, garage/driveway, rear garden, no chain. ER-C.
£229,950

Blackberry Drive, BARRY
Modern detached, fitted kitchen & bathroom, refurbished throughout, converted garage used as sitting room, driveway providing parking. ER-D.
£234,950

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Offer

Nina Estate Agents Ltd are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £73,000 for
127 Barry Road, Barry. The Vale of Glamorgan, CF63 1BD

Anyone wishing to place an offer on the property should contact Nina Estate Agents Ltd, 1 Broad Street, Barry, The Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 7AA before exchange of contacts.

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We advise that an offer has been made for the above property in the sum of £97,000. Any persons wishing to increase on this offer should notify the agents of their best offer prior to exchange of contracts. Agents Address: 1 Broad Street, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan. CF62 7AA.

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GEM FAMILY NOTICES

MADGE
Elizabeth

Suddenly passed away on Monday, 29th December 2014 at home. Beloved wife and soulmate of Bryan, wonderful mother of Andrew and Rachel, ever present support to Sarah and Ben, lovely big sister of Lind, fun-loving mamgu of Daisy. Elizabeth was a kind-hearted sister-in-law and 'Aunty Liz' to so many and a trusted, loyal friend to numerous cousins and countless others and a gifted and much loved teacher.

An exceptional and inspirational lady who loved, laughed and lived life to the full and left a lasting impression on everyone with whom she came into contact.

Funeral services to celebrate Elizabeth's life on Monday, 19th January at 12.15pm at Carmel Baptist Church, Llanharan, CF72 9RD and afterwards at 1.45pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend, CF35 6AB.

If desired, donations in lieu of flowers to the 'Elizabeth Madge Education Charitable Trust', c/o Mel & Ron Watkins Funeral Services, Graigwen, 12 Pentwyn Road, Pencoed, CF35 6SB. Tel: 01656 860545.

Yn sydyn, yn ei chartref ar y 29ain o Ragfyr 2014, hunodd Elizabeth. Gwraig anwylaf a ffrind gorau Bryan, mam arbennig Andrew a Rachel, yn gefnogol i'r eithaf i Sarah a Ben, chwaer fawr hyfryd i Lind ac yn fam-gu llawn hwyl i Daisy. Roedd Elizabeth yn chwaer-yng-nghyfraith galonnog ac yn 'Aunty Liz' hoffus i lawer ac yn ffrind ffyddlon a chywir i amryw o gefnderwyr, gyfnitherod ac i sawl person arall ac athrawes ddawnus, hoffus a chwydwybodol.

Roedd Elizabeth yn berson eithriadol o bositif ac yn ysbrydoliaeth i bawb gan fynd trwy bywyd yn chwerthin a charu a byw pob eiliad yn llawn. Gadawodd Elizabeth argraff ddofn a pharhaol ar bawb.

Cynhelir gwasanaeth i ddathlu bywyd Elizabeth Ddydd Llun, y 19eg o Ionawr am 12.15pm yn Eglwys y Bedyddwyr Carmel yn Llanharan, CF72 9RD a wedyn am 1.45pm yn Amlosgfa Coychurch, Penybont-ar-Ogwr, CF35 6AB.

Dim blodau, ond rhoddion os dymunir, i'r 'Elizabeth Madge Education Charitable Trust', trwy law Mel & Ron Watkins Funeral Services, Graigwen, 12 Pentwyn Road, Pencoed, CF35 6SB. Tel: 01656 860545.

HARRIS
John

Suddenly at home on 24th December, John aged 51 years, much loved brother to Royden, Denise, Phillippa and their families. A cherished son of the late Jeanette & David.

Resting in the private chapel of The Vale Funeral Home, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at the Vale Funeral Service Chapel, Windsor Road, Barry (opposite Mount Sorrel Hotel) on Wednesday, 21st January at 1pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry.

Family flowers only please, donations if desired may be made at the service to Barry RNLI in memory of John.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to Lyndsay Ellis 01446 407962.

SMITH
Michael Alan (Mick)

Peacefully at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff on December 31st, Mick of Phillipa Freeth Court, Barry. Dearly beloved husband of the late Mo, loving son of Alan and Pat, loving brother of Barbara.

Mick will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until his funeral service and committal at the Cardiff & Glamorgan crematorium, Barry on Friday, January 30th at 12 noon. Family flowers only, but donations in lieu of flowers to Marie Curie Cancer Care, Holme Tower, Bridgeman Road, Penarth, CF64 3YR.

WEEKS
Doreen Mary

Peacefully at College Fields Nursing Home, Barry on January 5, in the presence of her family, Doreen of Rhoose, loving wife of the late Ken, dearly loved mother and nan of Sian, Richard, Gareth and his fiancé Sarah.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon until the funeral service at St Peters Church, Rhoose on Tuesday, January 20 at 12 noon, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 1pm.

Family flowers only may be sent to the funeral home, donations in lieu, if desired, to NSPCC c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

BROWN
Rita Elizabeth (Nee Jenkins)

Due to unforeseen circumstances the funeral service for Rita, planned for Tuesday, 20th January, has been postponed until a later date.

Please telephone W.A. Brown & Son on 01446 792489 after Monday, 19th January (10am – 4pm only please).

PHILLIPS
Jacob Huw

Unexpectedly on December 28, Jake, aged 23 years, of Barry. Much loved son of Kevin and Monica, stepson of Dawn and Richard, loving brother of Anna, Naomi and Hannah.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until his funeral service at the Tabernacle Chapel, Holton Road, Barry, on Wednesday, January 21 at 11am, followed by cremation at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry, at 1pm. Family flowers only, but donations in lieu of flowers to the Prince's Trust.

TABERT
Bryan Thomas

Passed away peacefully on 10th January, 2015 in Taunton, Somerset, aged 75 years. Beloved husband of Denise, dearly loved father to Lee, Bernice and Carvin, brother to Carol and loving grandfather to his five grandchildren.

Funeral at the Taunton Deane Crematorium on Thursday, 22nd January at 3.30pm, followed by a Memorial Service in St Illtyd's Church, Llantwit Major on 26th January at 12 noon.

Donations may be made at the services to the Diabetic Association and Alzheimers Research.

ARCHER
Dennis 'Dan'

(Ex RAF Chief Technician RAF, St Athan)

Peacefully at home on 6th January, Den, aged 77 years, sadly passed away.

The most wonderful and deeply loved Husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather.

Resting at The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Rd, Barry until his service at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry on Thursday, 22nd January at 11am.

No flowers, but donations if desired in memory of Dennis to Scope via Helen Archer. Dennis requested no black attire to be worn.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to Nicola Ellis 01446 407962.

BARCLAY
June Mavis (Mavis)

Suddenly in her sleep at Foxtroy Care Home, Bridgend – Mavis, well known for being a former Brown Owl of 10th Barry Brownies for over 25 years, an honorary guest at the Annual Barry Scout & Guide Fete, in recognition for her committed service to the Guiding & Scout movement.

Mavis was also a committed member of The United Reformed Church, Windsor Road, Barry and former member of Barry Ladies Choir.

Beloved wife of the late Alexander John Barclay, mother of Heather, Jackie and Emma, mother-in-law to Tony, Paul and Sarah. Wonderful nan of Gemma, Lisa, Vikki, Samantha, Kyle, Lamara, Rebecca & Chris, a doting great nanna to Alex, Kaelyn, Ryda, Hayden, Brodie, Layla and Deacon. Sister to Ivor, Esme, Novy, Robert and the late Eric Bridges and all their extended family.

Resting in the private chapel of The Vale Funeral Home, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service at the Vale Funeral Service Chapel, Windsor Road, (opposite Mount Sorrel Hotel) on Thursday, 22nd January at 2pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry.

Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home or donations if desired may be made at the service to Dementia UK in memory of Mavis.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to Lyndsay Ellis 01446 407962.

ADAMS
Edward Howell

Suddenly, on December 25 at his home in Pentre Meyrick, Howell peacefully passed away. Father of Paul and daughter-in-law Charlotte and doting grandfather of Lil and William.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday, January 20, service and cremation 3.45pm at Coychurch Crematorium Bridgend. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to British Heart Foundation c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

BLACKMORE
Doreen (Do)

Peacefully on January 3rd at UHW Cardiff. Do of Hinchsliff Avenue, Barry. Beloved wife of Jim, beloved mum of Sandra, Steve, Terry and Paul. Loving nan & nanny Do to her grandchildren & great grandchildren.

Funeral Service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Wednesday, 21st January at 10.15am. No flowers please, donations may be made at the service to The Salvation Army.

Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service 01446 407962

FELIX
Donal "Donny"

On Monday, 29th December 2014, Donny passed, suddenly but peacefully, away at home, aged 70 years.

Dearly loved and cherished son of the late Alfred & Julia, loving brother of Josie, Jacqui, Andrew and the late Louise & Frances, brother-in-law to Barry and Jill and treasured uncle to all his nieces and nephews.

Donny was loved and respected by so many and he will be sadly missed by everyone.

Funeral service will be held at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Wednesday, January 21st at 11am. No flowers by request, but donations in lieu, if desired, would be appreciated for Cancer Research Wales via www.greenwillowfunerals.com (donations) or direct to the charity.

Any enquiries to Green Willow Funerals, 21a Station Road, Dinas Powys CF64 4DE Tel: (029) 2051 4627.

KING
Jonathan Alan

Resting at the Co-operative Funeral Care, 116 Rodway Road, Patchway, Bristol until the funeral service on Friday, 23rd January at 2.15pm at St Peter's Church, Pilning. No flowers, but donations if desired, may be sent to Guide Dogs for the Blind c/o the Funeral Directors, telephone 0117 969 4967.

RAWLE
Margaret

Peacefully on January 6 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Margaret of Boverton, beloved mother of Phillip and June, Susan and Roger, much loved by all her grandchildren and great grandchildren, will be sadly missed by all her friends at Bethesda'r Fro Chapel.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Thursday January 22, service and interment 11am at Bethesda'r Fro Chapel, Boverton.

Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

WESTALL
Roger

After a long battle, Roger of Llantwit Major, on 10 January 2015. Dearly loved husband of Julia and much loved father to Vicky, Sally and Hannah. He was a doting grandfather to Millie, Niamh, Rosie, Sam, Josh, Jack, Izzy and father in law to Steve and Simon.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major, until the funeral service on Tuesday, 27 January in Crossway Methodist Church Barry at 1pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Memorial Park Crematorium at 2pm. Family flowers only, but donations may be made by cheque to British Heart Foundation to the Funeral Home.

MARGETSON
Bethan

Peacefully in Princess of Wales Hospital on Tuesday, 6th January 2015 with her family, Beth sadly passed away but her bravery, courage and determination to live was inspirational to many.

Dearly loving husband to Christopher, devoted and proud mother to Ffion, cherished and beloved daughter to Peter and the late Mair, will be dearly missed but greatly loved and remembered by all family and friends.

Funeral service to take place at Tabernacle Chapel, Fenton Place, Porthcawl on Monday, 19th January 2015 at 12.30pm, followed by interment at Porthcawl Cemetery at 2pm.

Family flowers only, but donations kindly accepted to 'Beth Margetson Foundation' which is to be founded in the forthcoming future to help people whose loved ones are suffering from serious illness.

Dress Code: Bright clothing if desired please.

Any further information please contact Michelle Evans, Riverside Funeral Services, Bridge St, Ogmore Vale, Bridgend, CF32 7AL. Tel No (01656) 849036.

WEBB
Joyce

Peacefully on 11 January at Llandough Hospital, Joyce of Llantwit Major (post lady in 1970s & 80s). Beloved wife of the late Eric, dearly beloved mother of Sue, much loved mother-in-law, sister and aunt. Joyce will be greatly missed by all who knew her and loved her.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College St, Llantwit Major until the funeral service on Wednesday, 28 January in St Illtud's Church at 12 noon, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 1.15pm. Flowers welcome or donations by cheque to British Heart Foundation c/o the Funeral Home.

CATTLE
David Ernest

Jayne, Helen, Robin and Alison would like to thank family, friends and customers past and present who attended Dave's funeral and helped us to celebrate his life.

A special thank you for all the cards, flowers and messages of sympathy received, and for the generous donations made to Mind and The Stroke Association in his honour.

As a loving husband and father he will be greatly missed.

Many thanks also to Lyndsay and the Vale Funeral Service for their help during such a difficult time, and to the Rev. Duncan Ballantyne for conducting such a heartfelt service.

HARRIS
Jillian

Passed away unexpectedly but peacefully on 1st January at the Princess of Wales Hospital. Much loved daughter of Elsie and the late Ron; a unique girl.

Resting at Thomas Brothers Funeral Directors, Cowbridge. Funeral service will be held at 12.45pm, Tuesday, 27th January, at Holy Cross Church Cowbridge, followed by a committal service at Coychurch Crematorium at 1.45pm. Family flowers only. Donations may be made at the service for the 'Cowbridge Gateway Monday Club' who played such a key role in Jill's life.

T.K. Farman
31/7/25-14/1/09

Years are passing but you still are
as close to me as yesterday.
Your memories are my keepsake,
this I know is true,
but I never wanted memories,
I only wanted you.

Your ever loving wife,
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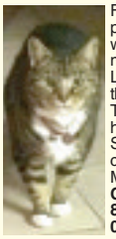

Female tabby with white chest & paws. Wearing a red sparkly collar with bell & paws ID badge. She is microchipped - West Farm Vets, Llantwit Major have been informed that she is missing. Last seen Tuesday morning January 6 at home, Illtyd Avenue, Llantwit Major. She is very timid & shy. Please check your garden shed/garage. Much appreciated - thank you.
Contact: Mrs Tracy Edwards, 8 Illtyd Avenue. 01446 679687 or 07780 774915.

Birthdays

Happy Birthday

Gwydyr

with love from all your friends at **The GEM** *xxx*

Samantha Morgan

Happy 25th Birthday for 20th January

Lots of love Melanie, Josh, Teisha-Mai, Mum, Dad, Emma, Tim & family xxx

Caroline Nethercott

Love and best wishes on your 40th birthday on 20th January

From Mum, Dylan & Finn xx

GABRIELLE CLARK

Happy 13th Birthday on the 19th January

Love from Mum, Gren, Nana, Grandad & Sniffles xxx

Thank You

Frances Adney wishes to say

Thank You

to relatives & friends for the lovely bouquets & presents on her 80th birthday.

Also to Llantwit Fawr School pupils for her hamper at Christmas.

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Happy Birthday

Sarah Smith

on 1st January

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MR CAPTAIN DRIVES INTO THE NEW YEAR AT ST ATHAN GOLF CLUB!

LEFT to right: Vice-captain Craig Sherman with Mike Edwards and outgoing captain Roger Davidge.

Nerves? What nerves? New captain Mike Edwards is on the tee for the 'driving-in' ceremony.

ABOVE: Craig Sherman drinks from the Pee Wee trophy!

ABOVE: Mike Edwards and wife Tracy.

Paul Dobbins and Simon Hampson were the winners of the day's competition.

ST ATHAN Golf Club recently held the traditional 'captain's drive-in' with several dozen members assembling to witness the event.

As is customary, Roger Davidge relinquished the jacket and presented it to Mike Edwards, who now takes the helm throughout 2015, assisted by his vice-captain Craig Sherman.

Mike took his position on the first tee, and the size of the smile on his face must have been counterbalancing his nerves, however he sent his ball soaring away... towards the trees.

The members had already estimated where the ball would settle from the drive but there was some trouble in actually locating his ball; he had failed to mention that he had borrowed a ball and it had another member's name emblazoned across it!

Confusion over, Mick Paynter happily accepted the bottle of whisky as reward for his prediction.

With formalities out of the way, it was time for the golfers to compete in the Pee Wee competition; a four-ball-better-ball, captain versus vice-captain format.

Past captains automatically fall into the captain's team with a draw being conducted for the remainder of the players.

Paul Dobbins and his partner Simon Hampson were the pairing with the best stableford score of 44 points and just one point behind were Gerald Thomas and Bill Wathan.

Both of these pairings were representing the vice and it was a jubilant Craig who saw his team conquer the captain's with an overall 9½-3½ victory.

Twos money was awarded to partners Dutch Holland with Degs Cox, and Gerald Thomas with Bill Wathan.

Craig had the honour of starting the consumption of the contents of the chamberpot (from which the competition takes its name) before passing it around his victorious team.

Mike took the opportunity to ensure that his team also participated in the celebrations; he reminded all members that he had promised to bring with his captaincy the four core values he had learnt while serving in the Royal Air Force, the highest being 'respect'.

He stated there would be no winners if there weren't losers, therefore everyone played their part in the competition and deserved to assist with emptying the pot!

The club captain, along with the outgoing captain and the vice-captain, Roger Davidge, and Craig Sherman, wish all fellow golfers a happy and prosperous year. They welcome new members of all ages and abilities, for further information please contact the club manager on 01446 751043.

CAROL MORGAN

Llantwit Major RFC junior round-up

SUNDAY saw Llantwit Major under-9s' first matches back after the Christmas break.

We welcomed Whitchurch and Bridgend Athletic for a morning of rugby. Despite the weather being cold there was an excellent turn out of players, 19 in total.

The coaches put the boys in two teams and our first match was against Whitchurch, a game of two 10 minute periods, and the players for the first 10 minutes were Flynn Barry, Owen Richards, Calvin Williams, Lewys Ingram, Thomas George, Braydan Griffiths, Dafydd Morgan, Thomas Lamerton, Luca Howles and Brandon Haris.

The boys played very well – there was some excellent tackling and off-loading of the ball but at halftime Whitchurch led 3-1; Llantwit's try was scored by Flynn.

The boys were swapped at halftime and the players for the next 10 minutes were Kian Barnett, Rhys Hoggarth, Tom Hamlett, Carwyn John, Kelyn Joseph, Corey Cox, James Cavney, Marcus Hanmer, Tom Jones and Brandon Harris.

The boys played some good rugby and this half saw Marcus and Carwyn score excellent tries. Lewys replaced Kian and at the end of the match the final score was Whitchurch 5, Llantwit Major 3.

The next match was against Bridgend Athletic and the boys stayed in the same teams. The boys for the first 10 minutes were Flynn, Owen, Calvin, Lewys, Thomas G, Braydan, Dafydd, Thomas L, Luca and Brandon.

The boys played some good rugby – they made some good decisions to offload the ball and there was some great tackling but this wasn't enough, and at halftime the score was Bridgend Athletic 6, Llantwit Major 2, tries scored by Thomas G and Flynn.

The boys swapped for the next 10 minutes, and the players for this half were Luca, Rhys, Tom H, Carwyn, Kelyn, Corey, James, Marcus, Tom J and Braydan.

The boys tried their best but it wasn't enough for Llantwit, and the final score was Bridgend Athletic 9, Llantwit Major 3, the try in this half scored by Corey.

Men of the matches were Rhys and Carwyn, but all players played their best and tried very hard - keep it up boys.

MG

After a great performance the previous week, the coaches were hoping for even more improvements as the under-7s welcomed Bridgend Athletic to the Comprehensive School.

Unfortunately the team did the complete opposite and didn't show up until Bridgend Athletic had notched up five unanswered tries. Tries from Joel Harris and Tomos Davies salvaged some pride in the first game but the team finished with a 2-9 loss.

Coaches Andrew Mitchem and Ian Godsell tried their best to rally the youngsters during the break and the talk seemed to work with the second game being much closer.

There were still a number of handling errors but the team worked hard to thwart the Bridgend Athletic attack with quick defensive line speed as well as some fantastic last ditch tags.

In the end they again lost but this time it was 4-5 with tries from Jos Bourner (two), Kyle Pagano and Dylan Godsell (6-14 overall).

Jos Bourner was awarded the player of the week award for his hard work in every area as well as being the top try scorer too – well done!

This week the team start their first of a number of away fixtures with a visit to Porth.

Team: Evan Boult, Ifan Lovejoy, Jos Bourner, Dylan Godsell, Joel Harris, Thomas Collins, Tomos Davies, Kyle Pagano, Aaron Moce, Lloyd Morgan, Bleddyn Mitchem, Bleddyn Daw, Theo Elsenburg, Maverick Jennings, Oliver Ingram.

IG

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Famous riders from the Vale – George Bowden

by BRIAN LEE

THERE may still be a few surviving ex-Cardiff dockers who remember George Bowden, who ran a tea and coffee stall in Cardiff's Docklands back in the 1960s.

George was a former jockey and back in 1985, I reported in the now sadly, long-defunct The Sporting Life that Barry-born George, one of the select band of jockeys who could claim to have ridden in the Epsom Derby and the Aintree Grand National, had died at the East Glamorgan Hospital, Tonteg, near Pontypridd. His death would probably have gone unnoticed, but for that Sporting Life obituary I had filed.

The son of John Bowden, of Rectory Farm, Merthyr Dyfan, Barry, Bowden was apprenticed to Yorkshire trainer Mr Golightly, but when he became too heavy for the flat at the end of his apprenticeship, he moved to Col. Morgan-Lindsay's yard at Ystrad Mynach.

George was said to have later lived at Holmes View, Port Road, Barry.

His biggest success was when he won the 1928 Welsh Grand National at Cardiff's Ely Racecourse on Sir David Llewellyn's Miss Balscadden, which had won the race two years earlier in 1926, when ridden by the Vale's David Thomas.

Twenty-year-old George, who was a rare judge of racing pace, took command of the race a long way from home and won by a distance.

This was George's first win over fences, as up until then he had only ridden a winner on the flat and a winner over hurdles.

His first win on the flat was at Salisbury on a horse called Dropitin, in July of 1925.

The late Mrs Posy Lewis, of Llantwit Major, who was the first woman to be granted a licence to train under National Hunt rules, told me: "George was a handsome and likeable fellow and rode winners for my father, Ralph Morel, and later myself."

The late Jack Thomas of St Athan recalled: "I knew George well. We both schooled horses together in our younger days and I recall him riding a filly in the Derby, which is a rare thing indeed. It was called Stampede and was owned by Dr Sixsmith of Cowbridge, and he used to ride it on his rounds.

"Anyway, it trailed in last."

George is the only jockey to have ridden in the Welsh Grand National before and after the Second World War. He rode in the race a total of six times and was third on Quite Calm behind Wise Don and Vinicole in 1931.

One wonders whether George had any connection with the Bath races ringer scandal that shook the racing world back in 1953.

Gomer Charles, a Cardiff bookmaker was sent to prison for his part in it and in his book *Ringers & Rascals,* David Ashworth revealed that Lord Eliot, director of a London commision agency, telephoned the police to report a visit by Charles and George Bowden, a former jockey and trainer.

Allegedly they had suggested Eliot present himself to the Chief Constable of Bath as a representative of the Jockey Club and discourage further action in the Francasal affair.

In 1966, Gomer Charles was shot dead by burglars on the doorstep of his Park Place, Cardiff home.

Incidentally, I remember seeing two policemen outside the house in question, as I was walking home after finishing my night shift on the Western Mail.

Although he won the Welsh Grand National on Miss Balscadden, he once said that the best horse he ever rode was Breconian, which had given him his first win over the sticks.

It was on Sir David Llewellyn's Breconian that George won The Lawrenny Steeplechase over three miles at Tenby races in 1929.

If you have any further information, or photographs re George Bowden or David Thomas, who was from Pyle near Bridgend, I would be pleased to hear from you.

Email brianlee4@virginmedia.com or phone me on 02920736438.

Positive results for bowlers

SULLY Bowls Championship teams played their first post-Christmas games with the club side home against Taff Ely and the 0'60 team away to Newport with both sides coming away with positive results.

The stadium team welcomed Taff Ely to Sully on Saturday and were expecting a convincing win as the Sully team are proving to be a strong side at home.

The game began with Sully on the offensive and they quickly moved to a 30-shot lead, 46-16, by the fifth end.

By the end of the 10th, Sully continued to force the pace and were still ahead by 31 shots, 71-40. Sully were in no mood to relinquish their advantage and by the 15th end had moved to a 52-shot lead, with all rinks ahead and a maximum 22 points looking good.

As the game continued over the final ends, Sully remained well ahead, but allowed Taff Ely to reduce the deficit by 11 shots – for a winning margin of 41 shots, 131-90.

One disappointment was the rink of Matthew Woodcock, who unfortunately, dropped six shots over the last four ends to lose out by two shots, 16-18.

Sully, by winning on five rinks, picked up 20 of 22 points on offer, which keeps the pressure on second placed Newport, with Blaenau Gwent favourites to win the league. Sully's target is to finish second which would be an improvement on each of the last two seasons.

***Rink scores** (Sully first): F Phillips 26 v 15 A Malkin; M Woodcock 16 v 18 M Thomas; B Griffiths 26 v 15 R Rand; K McLeod 22 v 13 I Randell; M Clarke 21 v 16 L Bridge; B Foscolo 20 v 13 A Dash.*

The 0'60 team had to visit Newport last Wednesday and win two of the four rinks to guarantee qualification to the play offs.

Newport are also in the mix to qualify and a struggle for Sully was expected but the battling qualities of the Sully rinks are very evident this season and although the game was close with Sully slightly behind, skips Ken McLeod and Dave

Snelling ensured the result by fighting back to win their games from behind, earning the four points required.

Congratulations to Martin Clarke, who has made the Welsh senior team for the forthcoming four nations tournament, to be held at Stanley in March. **FP**

BARRY DARTS LEAGUE NEWS

IN the first round of fixtures of 2015, the BFC Allsorts maintained their unbeaten record with a 14-7 victory over the Tynewydd Inn.

The Billy Ghosts remain on top of the league despite a 14-7 away defeat to the Poachers.

The Wanderers beat the Mariners 14-7. Dave Davies, from the Mariners, hit two 180s on the night. The Plastics took a trip away to the Runways and came away with a 12-9 win.

The Dockers also had a 12-9 away win against the Park Weasels, while the Cwm Talwg had the biggest win of the week with a 20-1 win against the Loungers.

There will be a delegates meeting on January 20 at the Cadoxton Cons club at 7.30pm, where the draw for the League cup will be made.

RL

Barrivale results

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for January 6:

1st Jenny Vaughan & Irene Thomas 60.03%; 2nd Celia & Huw Thomas 59.77%; 3rd Peter Millar & Denis Mottram 58.98%. Celia and Huw Thomas won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required. If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm. DR

SANT CURIG GIRLS SPORT NEW KITS

Nina Chives, Amy Whithey and girls from Ysgol Sant Curig, Barry.

BARRY-based Nina Estate Agents have supported the girls football team at Ysgol Sant Curig, by paying for ten new kits in the school's colours.

The girls used to have to wear the boys' kit, but they wanted to have their own to wear in matches and tournaments throughout the Vale and Cardiff.

Parent Michael Goode, whose daughter Gwenno is in the team, then approached Nina about whether the company would be interested in supporting the team, and they agreed to pay for the new football kits to encourage more girls to take part.

"I am pleased to be able to support the girls football team at Ysgol Sant Curig, and wish them good luck with the new season," said Nina Chives, Nina Estate Agents.

"A big thank you to Nina for her support, as the girls are very grateful and they look great on the pitch in their new kits," commented Amy Whithey, teacher.

The girls are looking forward to wearing them at their next football tournament at the Welsh Institute of Sport, Cardiff on Thursday, January 22.

Evan's success

LLANCARFAN'S Evan Williams, who is the top trainer at Ludlow, won the opening four-year-old juvenile hurdle last Wednesday with John Constable, who scored by one-and-a-half lengths from Mighty Missile.

The 6-1 chance was partnered by stable jockey, Paul Moloney, who is the leading jockey at the Welsh borders meeting.

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The Cowbridge lady bowls teams in 1995.

THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF COWBRIDGE BOWLING GREEN

LAST week saw the 20th anniversary of the laying down of the Cowbridge bowling green at the rear of the leisure centre.

The photographs show the first wood being bowled by the first president, Coun Ray Davies, Mayor of the Vale at that time and a photograph of the two ladies teams on that occasion.

The green, and the subsequent building of the pavilion, has provided a very pleasant home for the Cowbridge Bowling Club, which has gone from strength to strength figuring prominently in Cardiff Municipal League and Vale competitions.

New members are always welcome, and necessary, to ensure another 20 years of progress and development.

Ray Davies bowls the first wood!

Your chance to win £100 prize in Six Nations competition

IN conjunction with The GEM, the Cowbridge Rotary Club is launching an exciting new competition based on your skill at predicting the results of the 2015 RBS Six Nations rugby matches in February and March.

"The Rotary Club is very grateful to The Glamorgan GEM for supporting this charity project by publicising the competition, distributing entry forms and providing a collection point for entries," a spokesman said.

Entry is only £1 with a £100 prize for the best overall prediction of the results of all 15 matches (home win, away win or draw). The surplus will be allocated to the charity account of Cowbridge Rotary Club.

Entry is by a one-page form. A copy of the entry form will have been delivered with your GEM to homes in the Cowbridge area. Anyone can enter wherever they live. Feel free to copy the entry form and pass it on to friends and family.

Additional forms can be obtained by collection from The GEM offices, Eastgate, Cowbridge or the reception area at the Bear Hotel.

Visit www.cowbridge.rotary1150.org to download or email a request to cowbridge.rotary@yahoo.co.uk.

Entry forms, together with £1 entry fee, should be delivered either to the Bear Hotel reception or The GEM offices, Eastgate, and must arrive by 5pm on February 6.

Cowbridge Rotary Club delivers these services to the local community: assistance with transport; school reading; Stroke Awareness Day; youth competitions and monthly entertainment at Longmeadow Court.

Our charity funds are used in many ways: donations to major national charities – including Alzheimer's Research and Alzheimer's Society; Velindre Cancer Care; Worldwide Polio Eradication; survival boxes to international disasters; water supply to two schools in Uganda; raised allotment beds for disabled gardeners; Gateway Monday Club and chairs for a school library in Uganda.

If you would like to know more about the work of Cowbridge Rotary Club or are interested in joining, please contact the membership chairman, Peter Moug on 01446 776807.

Win to savour for Cowbridge RFC

LAST Saturday, despite 48 hours of wet and windy conditions, Cowbridge RFC's game against Taffs Well was played after good work by the ground staff Rob and Glyn, with their forks removing the surface water.

It was as well it was played because wins this season have been few and far between, and this 17-10 victory was certainly to be savoured.

The penalty count was high from the start and of the three penalties in the opening 10 minutes awarded to Taffs Well, their outside half put over the second.

Tom Harrison at full back set up a number of good counter attacks but on 24th minute an attempted chip over backfired and from that Taffs Well set up wave after wave of attacks, but superb defence kept them out.

On 31 minutes livewire scrum half Aled Thomas fed No 8 Dan Apsee who moved it on to second row Emyr Stone, and he quickly popped it back inside to his partner Darren Degurra to score an unconverted try.

With minutes to halftime Cowbridge gifted a try to Taffs Well with a knock back into the goal area that was gratefully touched down and the try converted. Halftime score 5-10.

Five minutes into the second half and an unintended tip tackle saw flanker Rhod Walker sidelined for 10 minutes. On 13 minutes, there was a sight to gladden Cowbridge hearts as prop David Popham came on to replace promising prop Ben Worrell and was soon making his mark. Coach Leigh Davies decided not to risk Rhod Walker and at the end of his 10 minute ban Geraint Thomas replaced him.

At the midpoint a great spin pass into midfield from scrum half Thomas saw Harrison check his stride, cut back inside the defence and crash over for an excellent try. Outside half Alex Guard, making his first team debut and proving a very good link man, was narrowly wide with the conversion.

On 28 minutes from a solid scrum, No 8 Apsee picked up and drove into midfield. Guard kept the move going and inside centre Rob Tripp cut back inside from 30 metres out to crash through final tackles and score a great try that Guard converted.

Cowbridge, now putting their game together, pressed in the final 10 minutes for their fourth try and bonus point but it wasn't to be. Final score 17-10.

Scrum half Thomas was excellent throughout and Apsee not far behind, while Emyr Stone and Luke Boys put in some great defensive work. In truth the whole team played their part.

There was a great atmosphere in the club afterwards, a mixture of pleasure and relief. We must keep things going - there are many more players to return and we look forward to seeing them at training soon.

This Saturday the team travel to St Albans for a rearranged fixture, and on January 24 we take on Barry at home. Two tough fixtures but ones we can do well in. The BC Youth team, meanwhile, are at home to Rhiwbina. and all support would be most welcome.

RK/RV

Llantwit Major RFC back to winning ways

WITH many games falling foul to the inclement weather Llantwit Major welcomed the news that their game against Caerau Ely would go ahead following a pitch inspection of the Ely field.

Llantwit were keen to put their close defeat against Dinas Powis behind them and get the wheels back on the wagon. In a performance that was accomplished and professional, it made both coaches and players satisfied and further instilled a belief within the squad that this season was not over by a long shot.

As in all games the first quarter is more of an arm wrestle for the upper hand, but both teams gave their all and the only points on show were a penalty apiece with Chris Fowler converting for Llantwit.

Soon though the patience of the visiting 15 was rewarded as Steff Price and Marcus Pearce crossed for tries, one of which was converted by Chris Fowler; these scores, with a converted try for Caeau Ely, saw the score at 15-10.

It was then that the floodgates opened and the Llantwit 15 and the replacements who took to the field kept the scoreboard ticking over with no reply from the home side.

The next player to cross the whitewash was club stalwart, the evergreen Shaun Shea, who remarked after the game that he has the same number of tries as Sam Warburton, Toby Faletau and Alun Wyn Jones, but more than Luke Charteris, Bradley Davies, Jake Ball and Dan Daw!

It was Marcus Pearce's turn next to add to the tally as he crossed for his second, closely followed by returning player Barry Griffiths.

Dan Farrel then struck to ensure that the forwards were further represented on the scoresheet before livewire Rhys Balmont completed the try scoring with Llantwit Major's seventh of the afternoon.

Yet again it was pleasing to see that as the game wound down Llantwit were not content to rest on their laurels, but further turned the screw and added further tries that come the end of the season could prove vital. The final score of the afternoon was Caerau Ely 10, Llantwit Major 48.

The players and coaches would like to take the opportunity to publicly thank those supporters who made the journey to Ely on a cold afternoon when it could have just been as easy to sit at home (or in the club) and watch our regional side Cardiff Blues in action against Leinster.

It's hoped that this performance will be the catalyst for even more people of Llantwit to come out and support the boys in what still could be a successful season.

With the team riding high in third place, and many games to go, the second half of the season will prove to be extremely interesting.

There is a week's break now due to SWALEC Bowl action and the team returns to the field on January 24 when we visit Llandaff North, where the squad will be more than keen to make amends for the opening day defeat back in September.

NE

Local boxers earn certificates

CERTIFICATES have been presented to Llantwit Major junior boxers in recognition of their attending a six-week, no contact, boxing course.

They were coached in basic boxing skills, circuit training and boxing related fun and skill games. It is intended to have a boxing sparring evening in the Cambrian Club (Old Flying Club), Rhoose on Saturday, May 16 - more details in due course.

If you would like to join our club we meet at the gym at the rear of Llantwit Major Rugby Club as follows: Mondays, senior training 5.30pm to 7.30pm; Wednesdays, juniors (nine to 14 years old) 4.30pm to 5.30pm and seniors from 5.30pm to 7.30pm, and seniors also on Fridays, 5.30pm to 7.30pm.

For more information contact: Tony Meakin (01446 796784/07790310898) or Mick Dixon (01446 710527/07970394966, or email mbdixon36@aol.com.

TM